

LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
480,000
No 63,059

Leaked letter row on eve of poll tax vote

Cabinet paper reveals rebate 'claw back' plan

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government was embarrassed last night by a Downing Street leak disclosing that last week's concession on poll tax rebates would be clawed back by higher charges.

As the crucial Commons debate on the community charge got under way, a Cabinet paper giving a detailed account of a Downing Street meeting last Monday which agreed on the concession, put by the Government at £130 million, was released by the Labour Party.

It suggested that the cost of the new rebates would be recouped by increasing the community charge for others. It also disclosed that the

Government had already decided to reduce rent rebates by precisely the same amount as Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, last week announced that poll tax rebates would go up.

Labour last night accused the Government of "deceiving Parliament" over the concessions, and Downing Street

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began an urgent inquiry into the third serious leak it has suffered in six weeks.

It follows the leaking of letters from the Prime Minister's private office staff to the offices of the Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Scotland. The first concerned the testing proposals contained in the Education Reform Bill, the second the possibility of allowing schools in Scotland to opt out of local authority control.

Yesterday's leak was by far the most serious, because of the content and because of the timing. It was clearly released to cause maximum embarrassment to the Government as the community charge vote got under way.

Conservative MPs listened in silence as Dr John Cunningham, Labour's chief environmental spokesman, read extracts from the leaked documents to the Commons.

One is a letter from Mr Paul Gray, the Prime Minister's private secretary responsible for home affairs, to Mr Roger Bright, a senior official at the Department of the Environment. It gives details of a meeting chaired by the Prime Minister and attended by Mr Ridley, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, Mr David Waddington, the Chief Whip, and Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the Commons.

It describes how the decision was reached to change the community charge rebate taper from 20p in the pound to 15p. This means that for every pound earned by the low-paid above subsistence levels, they lose 15p off their rebate instead of 20p.

This was announced by Mr Ridley to Conservative backbenchers last Thursday in an

attempt to placate the rebels ahead of last night's vote. Mr Ridley said at the time that the concession would cost between £115 million and £130 million.

But the letter from Mr Gray quotes the Prime Minister's summing up of the discussion as stating: "Some concession would however be appropriate in the light of the community charge rebate taper, with an amount being added to all community charge bills to finance additional rebates for the less well off."

The paper also stated: "Further consideration was being given, in a group of officials chaired by the DHSS, to the implications of the decision to raise the housing benefit rent taper from 65 to 70 per cent in 1989-90."

The decision, which has not yet been announced and is still clearly the subject of discussion within the Government, would mean that tenants would lose 70p of their rent rebate for every pound earned over income support level, compared with 65p at present.

Mr Robin Cook, Labour's spokesman on social security, who received the leaked documents, said the unannounced decision meant that tenants who benefited from rent and rate rebates would continue to lose 85p in the pound as before. What the Government had given with one hand it had taken away with the other.

He said: "I find it deeply offensive that any set of ministers should set out to deceive Parliament by offering

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Reagan says Tehran will 'pay price' for threats



Ablaze: An Iranian oil platform at Sirri in the southern Gulf after the attack yesterday morning by American warships being sprayed by a salvage tug.

US Navy destroys Iranian oil platforms in revenge attacks

From Christopher Thomas, Washington and Nicholas Beeston, London

The US Navy dealt a punishing and humiliating blow at Iran yesterday when its planes and warships destroyed two Iranian oil platforms, sank a patrol boat and left two frigates ablaze in retaliatory attacks which Washington warned would continue if its ships came under threat.

President Reagan warned Iran it would "pay a price" if it continued to threaten US interests in the Gulf. He called the US attacks a "measured response" for a mine explosion that holed a US Navy frigate last Thursday, injuring 10 men.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Cyprus, said: "The criminal America has entered an all-out war against the Muslim people of Iran." It pledged worldwide reprisals: "US interests around the world will not be secure."

Three Iranian gunboats responded to the US attack just after noon by shelling the United Arab Emirates offshore oil installation at Mubarak, hitting the 112,744-ton British-flagged tanker York Marine and causing the evacuation of 74 expatriate

workers, including at least a dozen Britons.

Although British ships are normally protected by the Royal Navy's Armilla Patrol, and the Type 42 destroyers Gloucester and Exeter were in the vicinity, a Ministry of Defence spokesman said that

Iran said that its forces on Fao peninsula had redeployed, after Iraq said that it had recaptured the area. "Combatants of Islam, faced with simultaneous attacks by American and Iraqi forces from the land, sea and air, re-deployed to new defensive positions," Tehran Radio said. Iran said the Iraqis used chemicals — Details, page 8

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the vessel's owners had never asked for protection and that the ship had been used for the past two years as a storage tank.

No one was injured in the attack, which shipping sources said was stopped when US Navy warplanes chased away the Iranian gunboats. The other victim of Iranian retaliation was the Cyprus-flagged

Omnium Pride, which was hit by gunboats in the same area.

Mrs Thatcher, who, along with America's allies, was given advance notice of the US operation said: "We are satisfied from the evidence we have that mines were laid by Iran and the (US) action was entirely justified as a proportionate response."

The Reagan Administration was braced to order further action if Iran continued belligerent moves and the White House warned the Iranian Government to "understand that we will protect our ships and our interests against unprovoked attacks". Washington accused Iran of resuming mine-laying operations in the Gulf last week, which damaged the US frigate Samuel Roberts and left 10 sailors injured.

Two US Navy battle groups launched their attacks in the morning against the Iranian platforms at Sirri and Sasan in the southern Gulf, which the Pentagon claimed were used "as command and control radar stations for the Iranian military".

US Marines boarded the

Sasan platform and set charges after it was bombed by the guided missile destroyer Lynd McCormick and the destroyer Merrill. The Sirri rig was destroyed by the guided missile cruiser Wainwright, the guided missile frigate Simpson and the frigate Bagley. It was also bombed from the air.

Mr Frank Carlucci, the Defence Secretary, said that at the time of the engagement an Iranian missile boat approached "with obvious hostile intent" and was sunk by US ships after being warned off.

Pentagon officials said that about seven hours later the Iranian frigate Sahand was noticed closing rapidly on three US warships 10 miles southwest of Larak Island, in the Strait of Hormuz.

The vessel ignored repeated warnings to turn away. The Sahand fired at three aircraft on a combat patrol, which retaliated with missiles and laser-guided bombs. The USS Strauss also opened fire on the vessel. "It is on fire. The

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NUS 'closed shop' inquiry ordered

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

A government inquiry into the National Union of Students' "closed shop" was announced yesterday by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

He told MPs that the Government recognised many students did not wish to be represented by the NUS. He said the Government was also concerned that taxpayers' money made available to student representative bodies should be used to provide services to students and not for political campaigning.

However, Mr Baker added that to limit freedom of association by restricting the right of local students' unions to affiliate to the NUS would raise complex legal issues. He therefore planned to conduct a survey of the status and organization of student unions in universities, polytechnics and colleges.

Information would be sought on the cost of student services, the legal position of individual unions and the links between them and the NUS.

Mr Baker's statement was immediately welcomed by Mr Timothy Janman, Conservative MP for Thurrock, whose early-day motion condemning the union's "closed shop" was signed by more than 200 MPs. Mr Janman said automatic membership, which denied hundreds of thousands of students the choice not to belong to the NUS, was anomalous and immoral. "I am sure the Government will reach the same conclusion."

The NUS, which has nearly 1,400,000 members in affiliated institutions and an income of about £2 million a year, said an inquiry was unnecessary.

Demjanjuk faces death penalty 'Ivan the Terrible' guilty

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The war crimes trial in Jerusalem last night found John Demjanjuk guilty of the crimes of "Ivan the Terrible", the executioner at the gas chambers of Treblinka, where 870,000 men, women and children died in 13 months from July 1943.

The crimes against the Jewish people and humanity, of which he has been found guilty, carry the death sentence in Israel. Next Monday the defence will try to convince the court not to pass the death sentence.

Applause broke out in the converted theatre where the trial has been held when Judge Dov Levin announced the court's findings at the end of a judgement which had taken the three members of the bench nearly 11 hours to read.

He said that after the most painstaking study of the evidence the court had come to the conclusion "beyond

reasonable doubt" that the accused man was "Ivan the Terrible".

He said that the conviction was not due to any one piece of evidence but to the "cumulative weight of identification added link by link in the chain".

A vital factor had been the "reliability, credibility and weight of testimony" of the Treblinka survivors who were witnesses. He said the degree of certainty of identification was very high and the court was satisfied that there was no question of confusion with another person.

This, the judge said, would have been a coincidence beyond all reasonable doubt and would have meant two men of identical appearance and age, balding in the same way, to

have been working at the same time at the gas chambers.

Other factors in reaching the verdict, he said had been Demjanjuk's SS identification card as the death camp guard and the "many falsehoods" he uttered.

He said the defendant had also given himself away by his refusal to make any statement to Israeli investigators even though in the course of "conversations" with Ukrainian-speaking officers he had betrayed a knowledge of Treblinka which he could never have had if he had not been there.

Demjanjuk pleaded throughout that he hated the war crimes of which he was accused and that he was the victim of a KGB plot.

Proceedings against him began 12 years ago, when he was a worker for Ford in Cleveland, Ohio. But he resisted extradition until 1986.

Kuwait resigned to death of hijack hostages

From Philip Jacobson, Algiers

The Kuwaiti Government is now apparently resigned to the death of the passengers and crew on board the hijacked flight KU-422 held on the tarmac here.

Despite intense pressures for a compromise that might break the present deadlock, the Kuwaiti Government's unwavering determination to stand firm was reaffirmed yesterday to the Algerian mediators.

According to informed Western sources in Algiers, the government delegation that arrived here last week has been instructed to leave the mediators in no doubt that any future execution will not produce a climbdown.

The presence of three members of

the Kuwaiti royal family among the hostages is considered highly unlikely to undermine the official position. This did not prevent the hijackers from attempting yesterday afternoon to pass a message from Prince Khaled Fadel al-Sabah through the control tower. The indistinct Arabic we heard from a quavering voice could not be clearly translated, but it appeared to have been the by now familiar appeal to the authorities for the release of the 17 convicted terrorists whose freedom is demanded by the hijackers.

A much firmer voice that we now identify as the main spokesman for the terrorists then came on to declare that we had indeed been listening to the 33-year-old prince, who is a cousin of the Emir of Kuwait. In the light of earlier reports that he had suffered a

nervous breakdown in captivity, this short appeal may have been all that he could now manage.

Reports that the authorities in Kuwait already regard their citizens on board the plane as "lost", in the same category as the victims of an aircraft about to crash, has strengthened the belief that the Algerian negotiators still have nothing concrete to offer the hijackers. The 30 minutes that the Interior Minister, Mr Hadi al-Khadari, spent on board the hijacked plane in the early hours of Monday morning certainly appears to have been totally unproductive.

A fierce sun that soon burned away the morning mist shrouding the blue and white plane before Ramadan intensified the suffering of the hos-

tages on the fifteenth day of their ordeal. In previous messages to the control tower complaining that the air conditioning was not functioning properly the pilot has reported the temperature at around 35 degrees C.

It is still not clear whether the hijackers intend to make things even worse by enforcing the Islamic law forbidding the consumption of food, alcohol and tobacco during the daylight hours in Ramadan.

● KUWAIT: The Emir of Kuwait has ordered the Government to settle all debts owed by the families of the two hostages killed by hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner (Reuters reports). An emergency Cabinet meeting yesterday also reviewed the latest developments in talks to free the hostages.

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Call to let patients go private if NHS surgery is delayed

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Health service patients whose operations are postponed unduly should be able to go private and bill the NHS, the National Association of Health Authorities says today.

District authorities ought to draw up contracts with patients specifying maximum waiting times and the levels of service people could expect. If those were broken, the patients should be free to receive private treatment at no charge to themselves.

The association calls for a system of financial penalties and incentives for health authorities who either under or over achieve within specified budgets. It argues in its evidence to the Prime Minister's review that pay for health service staff should be locally determined.

Where a health authority proved to be inefficient or failed to honour contracts with its patients, it would lose part of its annual allocation. Conversely, where a district had performed many more operations than it had been contracted to carry out it should be given extra cash.

The association warns Mrs Margaret Thatcher against dismantling the NHS for the sake of "untested and untested theories". Instead it calls for a national inspectorate to monitor health standards and a radical reform of NHS management at national level.

The NHS Management Board should be taken out of the Department of Health and Social Security and a separate public agency set up, divorced from the pressures of parliamentary interference.

The report, the first to be submitted to Mrs Thatcher, argues that the present system should continue funding the NHS primarily through general taxation. It proposes an experiment with an internal market, where health authorities buy and sell services from and to each other and the private sector.

The submission comes after the British Medical Association's evidence to the Social Services Select Committee published yesterday which cautiously supports an earmarked health tax.

The BMA argues that most other systems of alternative funding such as social insurance will not bring in extra revenue. A health tax, however, could either be levied like the old road tax, through value added tax or through higher duties on cigarettes, alcohol and leaded petrol.

NAHA proposes a National Accreditation Agency to ensure that the NHS did not slip into providing a second class service. The agency could model itself on the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Hospitals in the United States, which sets standards for all aspects of hospital care.

Mr Philip Hunt, NAHA director, said: "Let us build on the strength of the NHS and give it proper funding so that it can provide a better deal for the public."

It was essential that the NHS was given at least 2 per cent extra in real terms every year to meet inflation and "legitimate patient demands".

The BMA also favours retaining a system based largely on general taxation but it says that funding should be linked to the country's wealth as measured by the gross domestic product. If this year's allocation had been assessed on this formula health authorities would have got an extra £1.5 million.

Mr Jon Ford, BMA head of economic research, said: "The Government plans the health service along what it thinks it can afford. We are saying that the country can afford more than the Government thinks."

The BMA conceded that experiments in providing NHS services in a more efficient way, possibly by contracting out some general surgery to the private sector could be pursued.

Hospitals in certain areas would be able to set charges at certain times of the week or the year when they had less work, to attract business. But at other times, there would be no spare capacity yet patients would still need access to emergency facilities.

The BMA also dismissed the idea of introducing "hotel charges" as a non-starter. "There is ample evidence that charges deter people from seeking treatment", Mr Ford said.

Lotteries would raise more money in affluent areas which generally had good health care. Government subsidies for private health insurance would also go to those who had already taken out this insurance.

The Nation's Health - a Way Forward. NAHA's evidence to the Prime Minister's review of the NHS (NAHA, Garth House, Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham, B15 2RS, 051).

British Medical Association: Second Memorandum of evidence to the Social Services Committee inquiry into NHS resources.

Plea for dancing in church fails

By Ronald Faux

The vicar who claimed divine guidance for his plans to remove the pews in his church, carpet the floor and place his altar on wheels so his congregation could dance, sing and feel closer together, lost his case yesterday.

The Rev John Earp, aged 69, Vicar of St John the Evangelist, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, heard Mr John Spokes, QC, Chancellor of the Winchester Diocese, declare the proposals "aesthetically unsatisfactory".

Delivering his judgement after the three-day hearing by an ecclesiastical court, Mr Spokes said that the priest and his supporters had probably underestimated the strength of feeling in the parish against their plans. Costs for the hearing are being shared between the supporters of the changes and the opponents.

The vicar's critics were "much relieved by the decision". They had argued that the plan would make St John's a "glorified social club". Mr Earp, vicar at the church since 1962, said they would attract more worshippers.

After the result was announced he handed out a statement saying he and his supporters hoped to put the 18 months of tension and division behind them and work to serve the church and the village.

"Any comment upon what has led to the Consistory Court or upon the hearing itself and the Chancellor's judgement can only serve to prolong the argument or hurt. No interviews will be given and no questions answered", he said.

The vicar said furnishing the interior of St John's was secondary to the life of its members and what they were doing. "Our congregation is growing. Our worship is growing and we have for some time been reaching out to our village and further afield", he said.

Mr Brian Carlisle, churchwarden and arch opponent of the vicar's plan, said: "We must all do our best to heal the wounds. Had the decision gone against us I would probably have left St John's and gone to worship at another church. I have always said that I like the vicar; he is a very sincere man and I think his job will be easier than if the decision had gone the other way."

No appeal is to be made against the decision of the chancellor. In Hartley Wintney, where the argument brought the church and its "dancing vicar" into the headlines, the decision made hardly a ripple on the village pond.



The Rev John Earp armed with his plans, for which he claimed divine guidance, yesterday.

Public fear 'may hold up embryo research'

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

A leading theologian told a conference on medical ethics yesterday that "much exploited" public anxiety about human embryo research could obstruct progress.

Professor Gordon Dunstan said that doctors and scientists engaged in such research were the first line of defence of the human embryo. Ethical committees, and the law were the second line should the professional conscience fail, he said at Leeds University.

Professor Dunstan, professor of moral philosophy at King's College Hospital, London and Exeter University, defended the "disciplined curiosity" of researchers. Specialists working on test tube baby techniques at Britain's infertility clinics had shown a corporate sense of responsibility, he said.

Society had a duty to protect the human embryo during its development, he said. To deny that the earliest human cells, described as the "pre-embryo", had moral significance was to deny the moral significance of humanity itself.

However it was logical to recognize that the pre-embryo had the potential for life without giving it the full protection due to the human species, he said.

Professor Dunstan, a member of the Voluntary Licensing Authority, the watchdog group for embryo research, said he hoped delegates would support fundamental research and innovative medicine.

The four-day conference is likely to discuss the controversial use by British doctors of transplanted brain cells from aborted fetuses to help sufferers of Parkinson's Disease. It will also debate the ethics of human embryo research.

'Awayday' robber is sent to jail

A man who bought "Awayday" rail tickets to rob building society offices throughout the country with a toy pistol was jailed for 11 years at Huddersfield Crown Court, West Yorkshire, yesterday.

Owain Gruffydd, aged 38, a part-time care worker and university graduate, of Claire Street, Cardiff, began his raids after running up gambling debts of £7,000.

He would pick a town at random, buy a British Rail "Awayday" ticket at Cardiff station, and hold up and rob a small building society. He chose offices with female assistants and little or no security.

The first raid was in Cardiff in February 1986, after which Gruffydd made 21 trips: five to London, and the others to towns in the Home Counties, the Midlands and South and West Yorkshire. He was caught last December at Huddersfield after robbing a building society office of £1,100.

John Topham, for the prosecution, said the raids brought in £13,000.

Gruffydd, who admitted the raids, was working with handcuffed people at the time of his arrest.

Eleven accused of football hooliganism Police 'gained trust of gang'

Four police officers infiltrated a gang of alleged football hooligans accused of organizing football violence, a court was told yesterday.

The undercover policemen, a sergeant and three constables, changed their appearance and clothes to gain the gang's trust in a four-month inquiry codenamed Operation Wild Boar.

Eleven men plead not guilty to conspiring to fight and make an affray during the 1986-87 football season.

Mr Malcolm Swift, QC, said the men met in three Leeds city centre public houses and discussed football violence involving the police, black people and opposing supporters.

Mr Swift alleged a former paratrooper, David Brown, aged 26, of Lidgett Towers, Leeds, was the leader and organizer. His gang was called "Para's Army" and he was obsessed with football violence.

Mr Swift said Mr Brown organized a "battle coach" to Leeds away matches and had extensive knowledge of rival supporters' habits. He also had contacts in towns to which Leeds United travelled.

Another accused, Paul Miller, aged 23, of Queens Court, Morley, near Leeds, called himself "the General" and a third, Nigel Stephenson, aged 17, of The Mount, Thorncroft, Wakefield, worked for British Rail and was able to obtain information about the arrival of opposing fans at Leeds City Station.

That allowed the gang to lie in wait for incoming supporters and "amass themselves to give them a welcome", Mr Swift said. Other accused were prominent organizers and the remainder were described as "troops".

Mr Swift said: "They all knew there was a continuing plan to fight and cause disorder and all willingly took part in it."

He claimed a gang of 20 "fans" tried to incite people to fight in Lichfield en route to a match against West Bromwich Albion in December 1986.

"They were chanting 'We are Leeds' 'Come on Birmingham' to the horror of people in the town centre who were obviously disturbed", Mr Swift said. "They also chanted 'YRA', which apparently stands for Yorkshire Republican Army, and 'There's going to be a riot'. It was clearly designed to incite anyone who happened to be a Birmingham supporter to fight."

He said a few days later a gang went to Headingly rugby league ground after drinking to do battle with Wigan rugby fans.

One man shouted abuse and clenched his fists at Wigan supporters. At the end of the game the gang ran on the pitch to confront opposing fans, without success. Then they found a line of coaches from Wigan and walked up and down staring at the occupants and beckoning them to come off, but none did.

In January last year, 30 Leeds supporters hatched a plot to cause violence at a Bradford-Millwall game. They chased rival supporters outside the Valley Parade Ground, then waited at Bradford interchange but retreated when 100 Bradford fans arrived. The travel manager locked frightened customers inside.

Mr Swift said the undercover police became aware of a book containing the names of the organizers. They included "Battle coach director" - Porkey, "Secretary" - Para, "Treasurer" - Del Boy, "Chauffeur" - Beefy, and "Bouncer" - Smart.

The trial continues today.

Property boost in provinces

By Christopher Warman Property Correspondent

The focus of the confident house market has moved from London and the South-east, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors says.

While those areas continue to show healthy demand, estate agents reporting a "buoyant" market are in the North, North-west, Yorkshire and Humberside, East and West Midlands, and South-west.

In its latest survey, for the three months to the end of March, the institution says the market is volatile and first-time buyers in more areas are experiencing difficulties.

Of the 122 agents who contributed to the survey, 28 per cent reported increases of more than 8 per cent, more than double that of the last quarter. More than a third reported increases of 5 per cent; 5 per cent reported no change.

The West Midlands may be developing into the area for biggest house price rises, with nearly 60 per cent of agents reporting increases of 5 per cent and one third indicating increases of more than 8 per cent. A burgeoning regional economy is fuelling confidence, with demand considerably higher than supply.

Mr Peter Miller, the institution's housing market spokesman, sees the trend being repeated nationally. "The volatility of the market demonstrates high confidence among buyers, boosted by more disposable income after the Budget changes."

"This, linked with the trend towards lower interest rates, and higher wages in real terms, suggests demand will remain high for some time."

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Saudi prince acts to halt £50m case

The former wife of a Saudi Arabian multimillionaire yesterday halted her £50 million High Court action against him after the intervention of the brother of King Fahd.

Mrs Dena Al Fassi, aged 29, a former shop assistant who married Mr Mohammed Al Fassi when she was 16, claimed he had conspired with his father and business manager to stop her getting any of his English assets.

Mrs Al Fassi, the daughter of a Belgian coal miner, was seeking to enforce an American divorce settlement for almost \$78 million made in 1983. After the intervention of Prince Turki, Mr Al Fassi's brother-in-law and the brother of the King of Saudi Arabia, an out of court settlement was reached.

The couple have two children, who were taken to Jeddah after the marriage breakdown.

Under the agreement Mr Al Fassi will pay the estimated £250,000 costs of the hearing, provide a home for Mrs Al Fassi in England where she could live with the children who would be restored to her, and pay her "extravagant" maintenance. Mr Donald McCue, for Mrs Al Fassi, told the court yesterday. Various funds would also be provided for her. Mrs Al Fassi agreed to drop her allegations.

Solicitors worried over police dossier

The Law Society yesterday expressed deep concern about a decision by Scotland Yard to build up dossiers on London solicitors suspected of overstepping their professional duties and helping criminals.

A Scotland Yard spokesman confirmed yesterday that Det Supt Edwin Holbrook, of the flying squad, had been given the task of collating reports on unprofessional conduct by solicitors and their clerks.

In a letter to Mr Peter Imbert, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Mr John Hayes, secretary general of the Law Society, said that solicitors would find "surprising and unacceptable... the use of unsubstantiated compilations of 'intelligence' in the form of an index to which any police officer could have access" to deny them access to their clients in police stations.

"I would seek your assurance that any such lists or intelligence collations on solicitors are not intended or available for such use."

The Scotland Yard spokesman said that it was not Mr Imbert's intention to compile a blacklist. The evidence adduced from its inquiries would enable the police to assess cases by legal representatives to criminals in custody at an early stage.

Bikers offer speedy escape from clamping crew

By Daniel Ward Motor Industry Correspondent

A growing mobile army is chasing wheel clamping crews around London offering a loophole to motorists who have been clamped.

For a fee motor cycle riders will go to the Marble Arch fines office, queue to pay the £25 clamping fine and £12 parking ticket then return and wait for the clamp to be released.

Thousands of motorists have chosen to pay £25 for one year's membership of Clamp Rescue Company plus a fee of up to £12 per clamp. For that they avoid a visit to the underground payment counter and a wait of at least two hours for the clamping crew to release the dreaded "Denver Boot".

Crews will not release unattended cars and police argue that the inconvenience of wheel clamping is the greatest deterrent to illegal parking.

Mr Hamish MacDonald, manager of Clamp Rescue, said: "For anyone whose time is more important than our fee, then what we offer is an important service."

Another de-clamping company will drive the owner's car to his or her home for little more than the price of a parking ticket once the vehicle is released. Mr Constantine Tsolias, director of Car Clamp Recovery Club, said: "My main aim is to make it as easy as possible for someone who has been clamped". His company has up to 30 customers a day.

Scotland Yard said: "There is nothing we can do about them. As long as the fine is paid we have no strong feeling about these operators."

Many vehicles are left clamped for two days before being taken to police pounds and about 200 a month are not collected. Vehicles worth more than £150 are auctioned by the police and others are scrapped. Owners are given 21 days to collect their vehicles.

The recovery clubs operate mainly in Kensington, Chelsea and Mayfair. A Westminster City Council spokesman said: "We support the principle of clamping as a way of deterring illegal parking so we would be concerned if the motorist were able to avoid the inconvenience."

Competition is growing, with teams of bikers doing battle against each other. Swapping leaflets on the wind-screens of clamped cars is rife. Mr MacDonald said: "The market is expanding and the customer will decide who gives the better service."

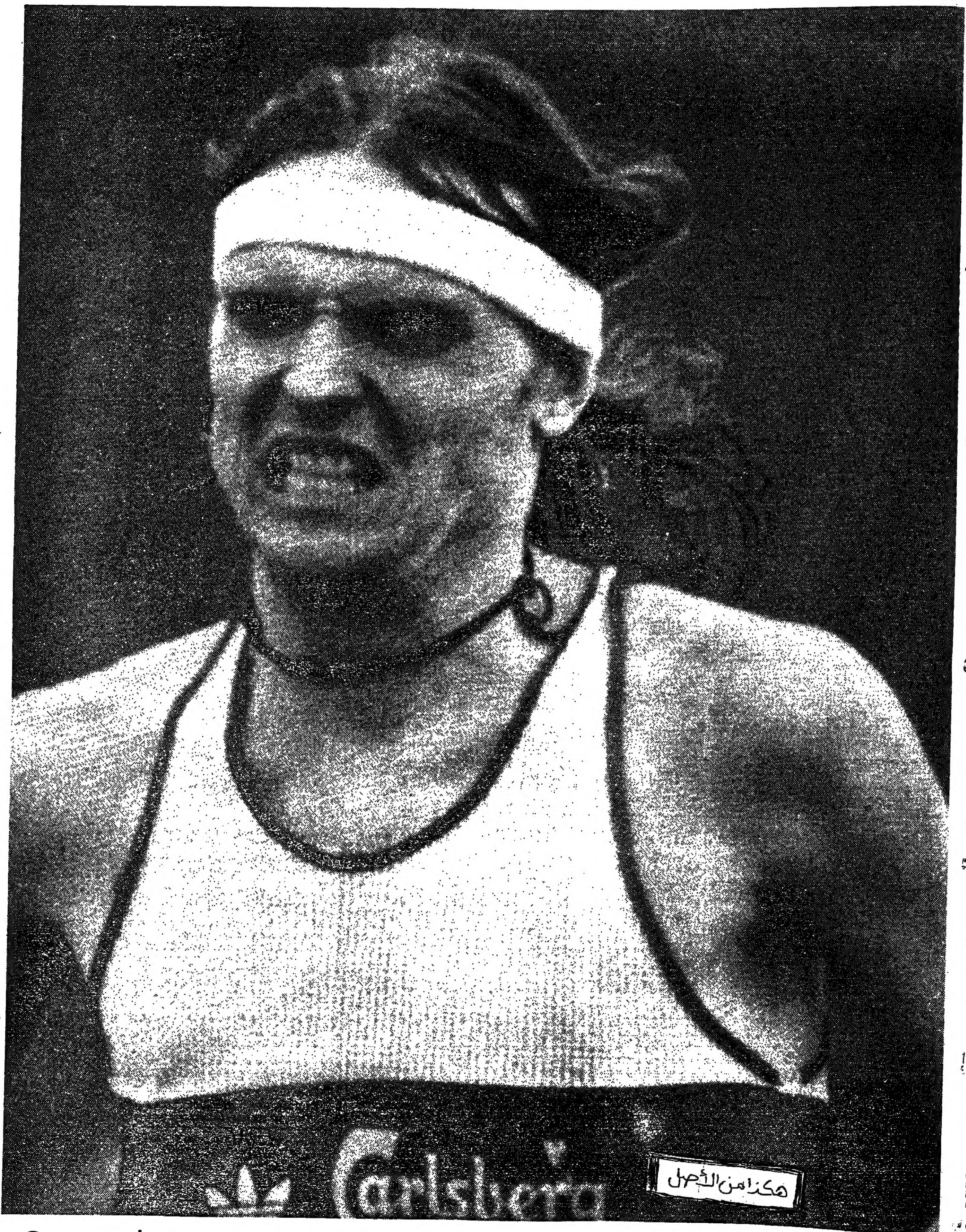
The North review of traffic law published last week recommended that police should have the power to clamp dangerous vehicles and those failing to display a valid tax disc. The clamp would only be released once the fines were paid.

The clamping of about 400 vehicles a day in London is reducing the total of 350,000 illegal parking acts that take place daily. The police believe many motorists have come to accept the £12 parking ticket as "an acceptable business overhead".

More than 50,000 parking tickets are issued each week but in areas where the clamping crews operate there has been a 40 per cent reduction in the number of tickets in recent months.

Last March the police introduced privately operated vehicle towaway trucks into Camden, Kensington, Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham. Already 500 cars a week are removed each week in Camden.

I bet he doesn't drink Carling Black Label.



Congratulations to Henryk Jorgensen for winning the London Marathon.
Probably the best lager in the world.

Our best wishes to our friends at Bass and WCRS Mathews Marcantonio, without whose sense of humour this ad would not have been possible. Probably.

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Soaring cost of TV advertising blamed for stifling economy

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

The television advertising monopoly enjoyed by ITV companies is costing the British economy up to £2 billion a year, according to a new report published yesterday.

High rates for commercials are harming British companies, stifling innovation, damaging small brands of goods and barring smaller firms from buying television slots to promote their goods, according to the survey delivered to ministers at the Cabinet Office, Home Office and Department of Trade and Industry.

British television viewers are also losing out because they are being deprived of additional entertainment on other channels which could easily be supported by the demand for extra advertising airtime.

The report by Booz Allen and Hamilton, which has previously produced two influential surveys for the Government on broadcasting issues, could not come at a worse time for the ITV companies.

Criticized by ministers for being uncompetitive and permitting restrictive trade union practices, ITV chiefs are desperately trying to dissuade the Government from selling off their franchises to the highest bidder in 1992.

The study into the economics of advertising in the UK concludes there is sufficient demand and money to support an advertising-funded fifth channel — an option much favoured by the Government. It also favours the "selling-off" of Channel 4 airtime.

A fifth channel would go a considerable way towards stabilizing costs and would enable smaller advertisers to return to television — instead of being priced out, as at present. A sixth channel, also financed by advertising, could follow in two or three years' time.

Television advertising prices have risen in real terms by 95 per cent since 1977 and by 37 per cent in the past two years, while inflation in television costs has been running at 18 per cent in real terms between 1983 and 1987.

The report says these rises were contributing noticeably to overall inflation rates in some important categories of consumer goods such as packaged foods and household products.

ITV prices are 64 per cent above the average rates applying in the United States, Japan, West Germany, France and Italy, putting UK consumer industries at a considerable disadvantage compared with their international competitors.

"The inefficiencies of the present commercial TV market structure are imposing a very large burden on the economy, without the corresponding benefit of more television channels", the report says.

The study, paid for by 18 large UK television advertisers, concludes that ITV is serving both British industry and the viewing public "poorly".

"Its charges to UK industry for airtime prices are very high by international and by historic standards, and the quality (in socio-economic terms) of the audience delivered is poor by average TV viewing standards, and falling."

"This results in consumer price inflation, in the stifling of product innovation and launch and in significant competitive disadvantage vis-a-vis overseas economies."

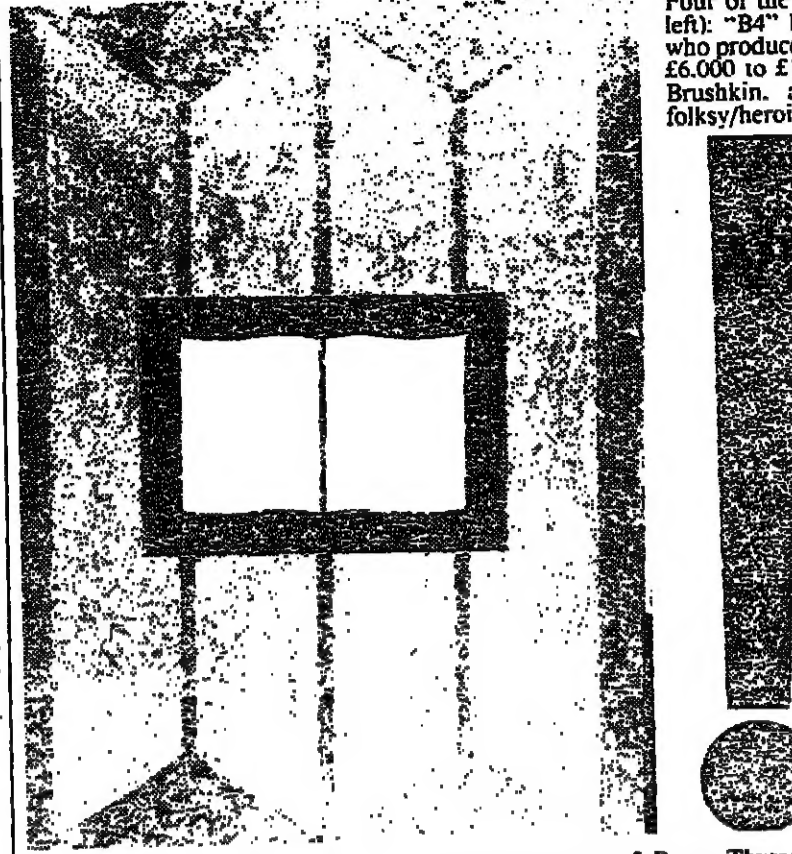
"As providers of entertainment to the viewing public the commercial television sector is also performing inefficiently by comparison with the BBC and its own past, taking a rapidly growing share of total television funds while not noticeably increasing either the quantity or quality of programming."

Unnecessarily high advertising prices are estimated to cost £700 million in direct economic damage to British consumer industries, while direct excess costs within the ITV companies which cause economic damage to the television and entertainment sector are put at £600 million.

Sotheby's picks Moscow auction works



Four of the paintings (clockwise from top left): "B4" by Vadim Zalkharov, aged 29, who produces idiosyncratic works; estimate £6,000 to £12,000. "Memorial" by Grisha Brushkin, aged 43, who specializes in folksy/heroic portrayals; estimate £5,000 to £7,000. "Airplane Poster" by the Constructivist artist Alexander Rodchenko, one of the early twentieth century works; estimate £3,000 to £4,000. "Emblems: Science/Knowledge", a semi-abstract by Serguei Volkov, aged 32; estimate £4,000 to £6,000.



By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

The Times has seen some of the 100 contemporary Russian paintings to be sold at Sotheby's first fine art auction in Moscow on July 7.

The 30 artists chosen by Lord Gowrie and Simon de Pury, of Sotheby's, will be allowed to keep the proceeds, in sterling, minus Sotheby's commission.

Mr de Pury, who has much experience of arranging exchange exhibitions with Russia, was until recently curator of Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza's collection in Lugano.

He said yesterday: "We have concentrated on artists for whom there is already a market in the West. Some have been shown at recent Paris and Chicago contemporary art fairs: one, Ilya Kabakov, has for the last three months been an artist in residence in Graz."

The only artist familiar to British audiences is Ilya Glazunov, painter of portraits (including Mrs Gandhi and Kurt Waldheim) and religious scenes in garish colours. Last year he had an exhibition at the Barbican centre in London.

Mr de Pury said most of the artists have been to official Russian art academies. Some work as book illustrators or designers — activities which would probably depress prices for their artist-equivalents in the West, where there is a snobbish about commercial art. Under the category of pure conceptual art comes Ivan Tschinkov with his painting entitled "Fragment of a Fence" — a compilation of textured fragments rescued from a studio fire.

"The paintings are very open to interpretation", Mr de Pury says. "Maybe there is an ironic undertone in some of them, but none of them is directly political."

Estimates for the contemporary art are from £2,000 to £20,000. The biggest money spinners are expected to be the few Russian avant garde paintings from 1910 to 1932 such as "Composition" by Alexander Rodchenko, estimated at between £60,000 and £80,000. Sotheby's has plans to show a selection of the paintings round the world.

Theatres plea by Sir Peter

Sir Peter Hall, director of the National Theatre, yesterday criticized the Government for reducing support for the National Theatre in spite of its public popularity.

The public had shown they "supported, needed, wanted and loved" the National Theatre, which had proved to be "extraordinarily successful".

Yet because of diminishing support, those working in theatre, including the National, "do not feel cherished, treasured or wanted by our current society or particularly by our government".

Sir Peter, aged 57, who retires in September, said he accepted private sponsorship of the arts had a role in our "mixed economy". He added: "I think private sponsorship should be used for development and experiment and a widening of the net, not to replace public subsidy".

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *Start the Week*, Sir Peter told fellow-guest, Sir Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science: "In the past 15 years at the National Theatre one has felt government support and Arts Council support diminishing year by year."

Rival arts show contract awarded

By Andrew Billen

Channel 4 has picked Mr Roger Graef, best known for his fly-on-the-wall documentary series *Police*, to make its forthcoming weekly arts show.

Holmes Associates, which took on Mr Graef, a former Channel 4 board member, as series editor at a late stage, beat more than 100 applicants for the contract, which was advertised last February after the arrival of Mr Michael Grade as the station's chief executive.

The programme will run for 39 weeks a year from this autumn with a regular mid-week starting time, probably on Saturday nights and will last between an hour and 90 minutes.

The announcement has caused a stir within the independent production sector which believes that the award was made with innocent bias for a key programme designed to assume comparable status with *The South Bank Show* on ITV and *Omnibus* on BBC1.

Mr John Ellis, a member of the rival Constellation consortium, which reached the final shortlist, said yesterday: "It was all done too quickly".

The choice of the winning team appears to be compromise between Mr Michael Kustow, arts commissioner at Channel 4 who has long set his face against running a traditional arts magazine, and the populist instincts of Mr Grade, who is said to want the programme on air before BBC2's as yet unscheduled nightly arts review.

A team of about seven presenters will regularly present the programme from regional venues, with half the content being contributed by production offices in Glasgow and Cardiff.

Radio 3 is to celebrate the Australian bicentenary with a month-long season of programmes in May. Programmes will include live recitals, opera, jazz, Aboriginal and contemporary music and three documentaries on Australian film, literature and science.

The BBC is to broadcast more than 300 hours of programme from a new television and radio studio in the Glasgow Garden Festival.

Beck Hole, near Whitby, North Yorkshire, has become the last village in England to receive television.

Turner watercolour sells for record £440,000

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

A German industrialist paid a world record price of £440,000 for a Turner watercolour yesterday, sight unseen.

Painted in 1840 from the steps of Turner's hotel in Venice, it is a masterpiece of delicate, wistful colouring, showing the great Salute church on the left, and the Grand Canal disappearing into a haze.

The buyer, at Phillips's British painting sale, was convinced of its merits after a telephone conversation with Mr Andrew Clayton-Payne, of Phillips.

Mr Clayton-Payne said: "I don't think he was buying it for investment, although I think it is a good investment. I think he bought it because he loves Turner. He owns others by him."

"The price is absolutely fantastic. Everyone says before these things: 'What an amazing painting', but in the cold light of day you sometimes find that the bids don't actually transpire."

The previous record for an English watercolour was another Turner — "Venice: A storm approaching San Giorgio and the Dogana", which fetched £398,000 in New York in November 1986.

Yesterday's watercolour was from a group of paintings not publicly seen until after Turner's death which had been on loan to the British Museum for the past 16 years. The British Library has acquired an important collection of seventeenth century historical documents relating to the Treaty of Dover. This was a secret agreement between Charles II and Louis XIV in May 1670 whereby, in return for money, Charles promised to work towards converting England to Roman Catholicism.

It was arranged behind the back of Parliament and most ministers. Had its terms been fulfilled it would have changed the course of history.

After the signing the highly confidential papers were entrusted by Charles to one of the signatories, Thomas, First Baron Clifford. They remained at his house at Ugbrooke, Devon, until last year.

The 70 papers were auctioned at Sotheby's in July last year. A grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund enabled the British Library to match the price of £317,000.

Sotheby's raised £1.2 million at a decorative arts sale in Monaco on Sunday. Top price, within estimate, was £41,729 for an unusual art nouveau bench in sculptured wood by Hector Guimard. A large mirror by Galle, its tiny, attached shelves and top sculpted into the shape of trees, sold for £39,642.

Trial flight of jet at City airport

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Thousands of people living near London City airport are to be given the chance to hear a jet using the runways in the former royal docks.

London City Airways always maintained that the airport will make long term financial sense only if jets are allowed to use it and will demonstrate this with a British Aerospace 146 on May 15 to try to convince sceptics that jets will not prove too noisy.

Mr Michael Bishop, chairman of Airlines of Britain, which includes British Midland and London City, said: "The difference between the propeller-driven aircraft now allowed to fly from the airport and the 146 will be hardly perceptible."

There has been strong local opposition to the use of jets and any move to introduce them on a permanent basis will be fiercely resisted.

The two airlines now operating from the airport are struggling to improve loads on their existing services to Paris and Brussels and do not believe they will make a profit for some time. The introduction of jets, which fly more cheaply, more comfortably and more quickly, would transform the operating costs both of the airport and the airlines, they believe.

One obstacle, London's tallest building, no longer poses a threat, for the Civil Aviation Authority has given approval for the 146 to fly in an out at an angle which ensures that it can climb over the tower even if an engine fails.

A greater obstacle to jet flights is a bridge across the Thames just south of the airport with towers which would make take off and landing impossible. After a public inquiry, Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, will give his decision on the bridge design within weeks.

Mowlem results: page 25

Church of England initiative £80m target for revival of inner cities

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor

Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, yesterday decided to offer government support for the reappointment of Lord Cockfield as Britain's European Community Commissioner.

Lord Cockfield is thought to have annoyed the Prime Minister with his proposals for tax harmonization under plans to turn Europe into a single, barrier-free market in 1992.

Lord Young said Lord Cockfield had done "an excellent job" over the past four years. Political leaders of member states nominate representatives for the EEC Commission. The appointment is due at the end of the year.

The Bishop of Worcester, the Right Rev Philip Goodrich, alleged that government policies helped the rich at the expense of the poor when he announced his own diocese's £200,000 target for the fund.

"There are very grave disquiet over the community charges, the Education Reform Bill and new suggestions about social services payments", he said yesterday.

"We are concerned that this will widen the gap and that, in line with the recent Budget, the rich will be made richer at the stroke of a pen while the poor find it harder to survive."

Friends of the Earth said tropical rain forests would not be saved by referring critics to management policies which might look reasonably good on paper or video but were almost entirely disregarded in practice.

Dr Lim said logging was wrongly perceived as destroying the forests. Out of a total land area of about 33 million hectares, more than 20 million were under forests and of those nearly 13 million hectares were reserved as permanent forests.

"While we admit that logging does cause disruption of the natural ecology, we submit that the forests have a strong regenerative capacity which is maintained by selective logging."

French buy into water companies

By David Walker

A stake in the North Surrey Water Company, based in Staines and supplying the area including Windsor and Maidenhead, Berkshire, has been acquired by the French.

After other recent purchases by French interests, it means that the water supplied to a wide swathe of the Home Counties and outer London, from Guildford through St Albans to Harlow in Essex, is partly French owned.

Cementation SAUR Water Services, an Anglo-French concern, part owned by the French building and media magnate Francis Bouygues, has taken a 15 per cent shareholding in the North Surrey company, one of 28 statutory water undertakings.

They are strongly placed to expand their role in providing water to homes and business after water privatization.

Several big British firms, including Trafalgar House, M Bouygues' partner in Cementation SAUR, have been buying into the water companies.

The French water industry, which supplies 70 per cent of consumers across the Channel, is the acknowledged market leader.

Cementation SAUR holds 26 per cent of Rickmansworth Water Company (supplying parts of Harrow and Ealing as well as Watford) and 22 per cent of the Colne Valley Water Company, supplying 760,000 people in Hertfordshire and west London.

France's biggest private supplier of water, the Compagnie Générale des Eaux holds nearly 19 per cent of North Surrey, 27 per cent of Colne Valley and 18 per cent of the Lee Valley Water Company, which supplies one million people in Bedfordshire, Essex and north-east London.

The deals are a springboard for large-scale French acquisitions when Thames Water, Yorkshire Water and the other regional authorities are sold in the early 1990s.

Figures of fun get Lakeland approval

Moulded fibreglass play figures known as herbies may take up permanent residence in the Lake District although planners are opposed to them.

The herbies, which include oversize gnomes, boots and trees, have been approved by the Department of the Environment which overruled objections by the Lake District Special Planning Board.

The board says the figures are incongruous but it failed to win backing from the Association of County Councils and has given up its campaign for the time being.

Minister stands by logging policy

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Allegations that a member of parliament, Mr Mutang Tagal, who was an expert on the native peoples of Sarawak, had interests in four large timber companies were belittled, he said.

At a press conference in London at the end of a 12-day visit to The Netherlands, Belgium, West Germany and Britain, Dr Lim clashed with representatives of Friends of the Earth and Survival International who, he said, had no business meddling in his country's internal affairs.

The two organizations had earlier called for the resignation of the Sarawak environment minister, an immediate halt to the logging of native people's land, and an end to the practice of leasing tribal lands to timber concessions.

Radioactive gas check on 1,000 homes

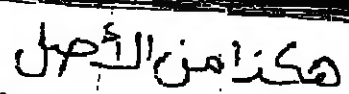
Homes in Wales are being monitored for radioactivity linked to cancer.

The survey, on 1,000 homes, will check levels of naturally occurring radon gas. It is being conducted by the National Radiological Protection Board on behalf of the Welsh Office.

It is estimated that in Britain 1,500 people die each year from lung cancer caused by radon gas, which seeps out of the ground and can become trapped in homes where it builds up. If levels are found to be too high, the gas can be pumped out of the house and dispersed into the atmosphere.

BANGKOK BRUNEI SEOUL FIVE TIMES A WEEK

We reach for the sky



هكزامن الأحمل

Pity the man who believes the best things in life are free. He will never taste Beluga caviar. He will never experience Chateau Petrus 1961. He will never know what it is to drive a car that has been designed without compromise.

Not for him the surge of a race-bred engine on an open road, not for him the supple comfort of leather upholstery, not for him the sleek grace of a bodyshape that cuts noiselessly through the wind. In short, not for him the new Honda Legend Coupé.

For the man, on the other hand, who seeks excellence, and who possesses the means to back his judgement, the new Legend Coupé brings a rich blend of rewards.

Foremost among them is the reward of commanding a truly fine engine. First, the technical data: the engine in question is Honda's 24 valve, 2.7 litre, programmed fuel injection V6. It delivers 177PS, powers you to 60 mph in 8.0 seconds, and cruises on, where legal, to a top speed of 132 mph.*

Now for the superlatives. (Not ours, you understand; those of the motoring press.)

"What of the new 2.7 engine? In short, it is a gem, revving sweetly yet with a faint growl that in no way harms refinement." Thank you What Car? Magazine.

"The new 2.7 engine is a very fine engine indeed, perfectly in tune with the coupe's image and aspirations, being smooth, powerful and blessed with a characteristic engine note." Thank you Motor Magazine.

To aficionados of Grand Prix racing these eulogistic phrases will come as no great surprise, for Honda's Formula One engines dominated the sport throughout 1987. They powered Nelson Piquet to the Drivers' Championship and helped the Williams-Honda team win the Constructors' Championship for the second year running.

But if the Legend Coupé's engine is designed to exhilarate inside the car the rewards are of a gentler kind. There is much space, unusually for a coupe, that applies to both you and your passengers. There is little noise, the ultra low 0.30 drag coefficient plays its part in that. There are many creature comforts.

Before we embark upon an equipment checklist, let it first be said that while the new Legend will not cost you a penny less

than £24,000, neither will it require you to produce additional funds for extras. There is no 'luxury pack' for you to specify. Every conceivable luxury has already been provided.

Obviously, you'd prefer fine leather seats to cloth. So leather they are; plush, soft, supple. Naturally, you require a sunroof. Naturally, ours is smoked glass and electric powered. Did you say air conditioning? We go further than that. The Coupé is equipped with automatic climate control. So however fickle the weather outside the car, inside it will remain at the temperature you set.

Should you prefer automatic to manual transmission, then automatic you shall have, at no extra cost. But not just any automatic. The Honda system is controlled by microchip for optimum gear changes. And for those occasions when you want even more spirited performance, the system incorporates a sports mode.

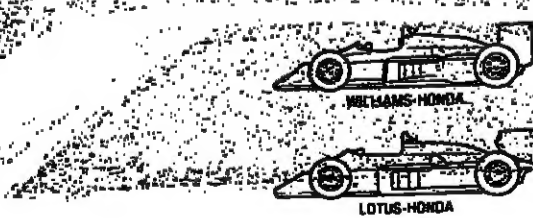
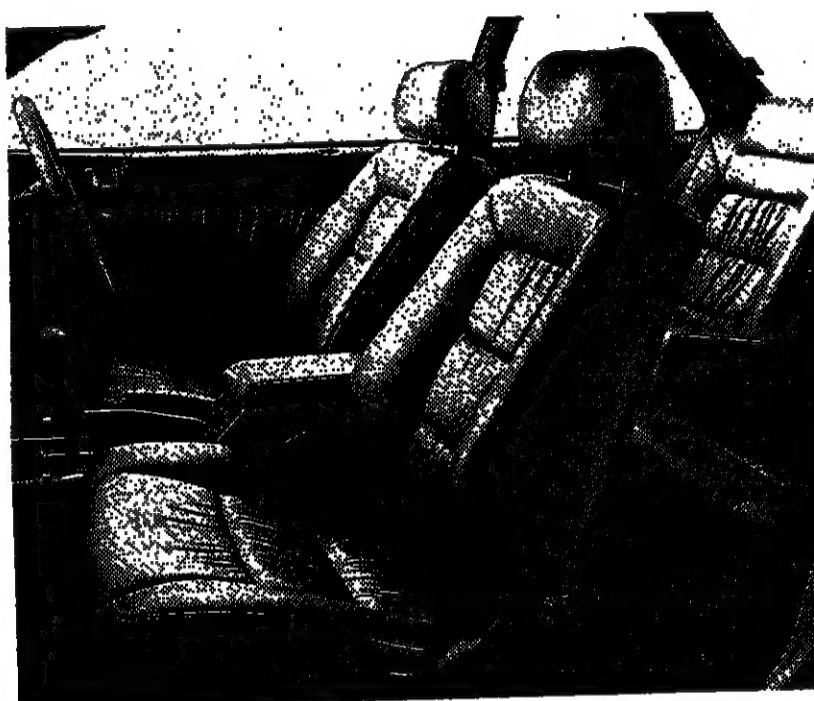
What else is important to you? Cruise control? Anti-lock braking? Four speaker stereo? Central locking? It's all been taken care of. There is even an infra-red system for keyless entry. Examine the basic specification of the Legend's rivals. By comparison they are cars of almost monastic simplicity.

On to some of the other rewards of owning a Legend Coupé. Handling. Superb, thanks to the all-round double wishbone suspension. As What Car? put it: "The Legend, belying its luxury image, felt refreshingly taut and delightfully alive to the controls."

Style. Refer to the picture on the left. Or refer to Motor, January 16, which said: "The Honda simply oozes showroom appeal. The overall attention to detail matches the best Europe can offer. It is in the BMW and Mercedes class."

Rarity. The new Legend Coupé is hardly an example of mass production. You won't see them in droves outside your favourite restaurant. You won't see them cheek by jowl at the tennis club. You won't see a regiment of them in the directors' car park.

And rightly not; the new Legend Coupé has been designed to take its place as one of the very best things in life. And they are neither free nor frequent.



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WORLD ROUNDUP

Pretoria reveals
Angolan war role

Johannesburg (AP) — General Jannie Geldenhuys, head of the South African armed forces, has broken a long official silence on the combat role of his troops in Angola. In his first detailed statement on intervention in the civil war, he said there had never been more than 3,000 troops in Angola at any one time in the past year. Meanwhile, in Cape Town, police fired tear gas at 400 schoolchildren at a meeting seeking clemency for the Sharpeville Six, sentenced to hang in connection with the murder of a township official.

Warsaw memorial

Warsaw — Nearly a thousand people, from the Soviet general who led the Red Army into Nazi Berlin to delegations of Jews from Israel, combined in Warsaw yesterday to honour the memory of the three million Polish Jews who were killed during the Second World War (Richard Bassett writes).

At a ceremony to unveil a lavish marble monument on the site of the square from which Warsaw's Jewish population was transported to Treblinka, a moment's silence was kept. The ceremony, attended by the Mayor of Warsaw and other officials, was, however, less impressive than that which was staged unofficially the evening before by Solidarity.

Heysel adjournment

Brussels (AP) — The Heysel Stadium trial opened yesterday and was adjourned until October 17 to give lawyers of the 29 defendants, who include 26 British soccer fans charged with involuntary manslaughter in the deaths of 39 spectators, more time to study the trial records. None of the Britons attended yesterday's session.

But two Belgian police officers and a former Belgian soccer federation official, accused of having failed to organise sufficient security arrangements at the 1985 European Cup final, were at the hearing. Defence lawyers said they needed more time to study up to 50,000 pages of court records and that difficulties with access to trial papers made a realistic defence almost impossible.

Chernobyl's new town

Moscow (Reuters) — The first 500 people have moved into a new town built to house staff from the Chernobyl nuclear power station after the world's worst nuclear accident nearly two years ago. Tass said yesterday.

Construction is continuing in the town of Slavutich, which was founded six months after the Chernobyl disaster and it will have space for 23,000 inhabitants within a year. Slavutich is 30 miles from Chernobyl, where a reactor exploded and caught fire on April 26, 1986, spewing a cloud of radiation across Europe. Tass said that progress had been made on decontaminating the power station and its surrounding area, including the town of Pripyat.

US secrets 'hacked'

Bonn (AP) — A West German prosecuting lawyer said yesterday that he believed a Hanover computer "hacker" had broken in to key US military computers, including those dealing with sensitive defence and aerospace matters. The German newspaper *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* said that for nearly two years the suspect was able to gain access to the computers via telephone connections through his own computer.

US authorities suspect that the man electronically broke into about 50 computers, among them those at the Air Force Systems Command in El Segundo, California, and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. A Bremen court official said that the investigation had been dropped because there was insufficient evidence.

Elgin Marbles appeal



Athens — Miss Melina Mercouri, the Greek Culture Minister, left, and Mr Michael Foot, the former Labour Party leader who is on a three-day visit to Athens, made a joint appeal yesterday for the Elgin Marbles to be returned in time to go on display in 1996, when Greece hopes to stage the Olympic Games here (Our Correspondent writes). Miss Mercouri said that construction would begin next year on a museum for the 5th century BC sculptures.

PLO funeral
signals end
to Syrian rift
with Arafat

By Our Foreign Staff

President Assad of Syria will allow the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mr Yasser Arafat, into the country for the funeral of Khalil al-Wazir, the murdered PLO military commander known as Abu Jihad.

Palestinian sources said yesterday that Abu Jihad's body would be flown to Damascus from Tunis today and would be buried tomorrow with full military honours. He was shot dead by gunmen at his home in Tunis on Saturday, and the PLO has blamed Israel for the murder.

The sources said that Mr Arafat, who was expelled from Syria in 1983 after disputes with Syrian leaders over the correct approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict, was now welcome in Damascus. They said he was expected to meet President Assad and that a long-awaited reconciliation might be announced.

Many foreign delegations would attend the funeral, which had been put back a day to allow arrangements to be made, they said. President Assad had ordered the authorities to allow all Palestinian leaders into Syria for the ceremony, regardless of any differences between them and Damascus.

Abu Jihad's elderly parents, refugees from the town of Ramle — which became part of Israel when the Jewish state was created in 1948 — have lived in Damascus for more than 14 years. The health of his 86-year-old father, Ibrahim, has deteriorated since he heard of his son's murder.

"Only God knows our condition and what we feel after this big loss," he said. "I pray to almighty God to help me bear this big wound. The only relief I have is that he died as he wanted. He wanted to be a martyr, and God has given him his son's wish."

The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, yesterday dismissed as "a load of nonsense" an American television report that a crack team of Israeli commandos had assassinated Abu Jihad.

Mr Shamir's disclaimer, made to visiting American Jewish leaders and reported by Israel Radio, is the first unequivocal official response to the question of possible Israeli involvement in last weekend's assassination.

The NBC report, which was given front-page prominence in yesterday's newspapers and was the main item on several radio news bulletins, said that Mr Shamir had been so delighted by the success of the operation that he had cabled

his congratulations to the Israeli commandos while they were still returning to Israel from Tunisia.

Time magazine has backed up this account with a report from its own correspondents in the Middle East. The report says the assassination squad was part of a 30-man unit of the Israeli armed forces.

The squad of seven men and a woman dressed in uniforms resembling those of the Tunisian Army, made their way ashore by dinghy, and met three men carrying Lebanese passports, who provided them with the vehicles in which they travelled to Abu Jihad's house.

Time says that an Israeli intelligence official, asked about the attack, said: "Don't ask me, and I'll not have to tell you lies."

Mr Shamir's only other publicized statement on the subject was made in response to a question in Cabinet on Sunday, when he is reported to have said that the first he had heard of the assassination had been "on the radio".

Other Israeli leaders have been similarly evasive about Israel's possible involvement. But several public figures — including the former Defence Minister, Mr Ariel Sharon — have said that such assassinations should become part of Israeli policy in its struggle with the PLO.

Two more Palestinians were killed in Gaza during clashes with Israeli troops yesterday as demonstrations throughout the occupied territories protested against the assassination of the PLO leader.

In West Germany, the leader of the country's Jewish community demanded that police give more protection to Jewish property after a bomb exploded outside the Frankfurt Jewish Centre early yesterday morning.

Herr Heinz Galinski, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said in a letter to the federal police that he could not understand why Jewish communities encountered problems when seeking police protection for their property. The bomb broke windows and destroyed a van outside the centre. Eight minutes later, another exploded outside an office belonging to the Saudi airline Saudia.

Police said the explosions were being treated as politically motivated, but no one had claimed responsibility so far. A police spokesman said that the explosive used in both bombs was the same, and was either commercial or military.

Partner in peace, page 12

Anxious wait for Briton facing gallows



Derrick Gregory, the Briton sentenced to death last for trafficking in heroin in Malaysia, leaving the Supreme Court in Kuala Lumpur yesterday where his appeal was heard. Gregory, aged 38, from Surrey, is expected to hear his fate today.

Chief Justice Abdul Hamid Omar, sitting with two other judges, heard pleas that Gregory was threatened into trying to smuggle more than 20 oz of heroin out of

Penang in October 1982. The defence counsel, Mr R Rajasingam, said that Gregory's act was that of an immature person, and that a scan had shown that he had suffered damage to the brain at the age of four. He said police investigations revealed that at least three people named by Gregory as members of a syndicate which threatened him were in Penang at the time of his arrest. He also feared that

his wife and child in England would be harmed. During his High Court trial police said they found the heroin in 18 plastic packets in Gregory's boots and underwear at Penang airport.

More than 50 people have been hanged for heroin trafficking, including two Australians whose pleas for mercy were supported by Australia and Britain.

Judges reject Demjanjuk alibi

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The three members of the Israeli court trying Mr John Demjanjuk for the war crimes of "Ivan the Terrible" yesterday rejected his alibi that he was a Ukrainian camp guard, capable of killing and disposing of up to 13,000 people a day. He conjured up again the image of "Ivan the Terrible", most feared of the Ukrainian camp guards, who operated the gas chambers and amused himself by gouging out the eyes of the living.

Judge Levin said that the case was "vast and bleak and horrifying". It involved tens of thousands of unspeakable acts covering the most appalling part of Jewish history during which 870,000 had died in the slaughterhouse of Treblinka during Nazi Germany's monstrous policy to destroy the Jewish people.

The defendant was accused of helping carry out that policy, "zealously and with a thirst for murder".

The court's task had been to expose and clarify the facts "from the fog of the not too distant past in which so much has been suppressed". The events at Treblinka were directly linked to the question of the defendant's identity, he said, and so the full story had to be told.

During his three and three-quarter hour summary he went through the evidence of the handful of Treblinka

survivors, retelling their horror stories. He described the efficient camp extermination machine, capable of killing and disposing of up to 13,000 people a day. He conjured up again the image of "Ivan the Terrible", most feared of the Ukrainian camp guards, who operated the gas chambers and amused himself by gouging out the eyes of the living.

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Moscow homeless pin hope on charity

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

With the sudden admission in the spirit of *glasnost* that the Soviet Union also has its homeless, handicapped and lonely, charity is making its return to the country's streets after decades of being banished as an unnecessary and hypocritical Western concept.

The change was highlighted by a Soviet television film which showed that after a lifetime's work as a teacher, 90-year-old Mrs Serafima Arkhangelskaya, a resident of Moscow's historic Arbat district, had nowhere to sleep and spent her nights huddled close to the radiator of the public stairway in an apartment block.

The film was especially shocking because official propaganda had convinced Soviet viewers that homelessness was a problem exclusive to the unfeeling West. It was part of an appeal for help by a new Moscow charity, *Miloserdie* (mercy), which went to the old woman's aid after hearing she

had been sleeping rough since a fire gutted her municipal flat 18 months earlier.

"When the City Council heard that a charity was about to step in, they were shocked and said 'Leave it to us,'" explained the charity's founder, Miss Marina Mulina, a Soviet journalist. "Within a week, council workmen came and fixed her flat. She is living there now."

Miloserdie was founded last year after Miss Mulina and other journalists on the Communist Youth League weekly *Sobesednik*, decided to spend a day visiting lonely and old Muscovites who had taken advantage of the new climate of openness to write in about problems which had previously remained hidden from the general view.

The work of the charity's present staff of more than 200 volunteers is seen as remarkable by Western experts because charity by the Russian Orthodox Church is still out-

lawed by the communist state, and the word *prizrenat*, which means "supporting by charity," is described as "obsolete" in most Russian reference books.

Miloserdie has now received fulsome support from the city daily *Moskovskaya Pravda*, which revealed that in March, 32 elderly people and 12 invalids committed suicide in Moscow. It said it was publicising the figures to spur awareness of an increasing problem of loneliness among old people, who felt helpless and unneeded despite the theoretical protection offered by the communist system.

"Until recently there were statistical secrets that it was convenient to conceal; there was no data, and therefore no problem," the paper said, calling on its readers to donate money to the charity. It printed addresses where they could volunteer their services.

Similar charitable groups have sprung up in Leningrad, Kazan, Sverdlovsk, Rostov-on-Don, Novosibirsk and the Baltic republics. "The state is starting to recognize that it cannot do everything itself and people are learning that they do not have to wait for Big Brother to decide everything," Miss Mulina said.

Under the headline "Is Charity Making A Comeback?" the latest addition of *Moscow News* pointed out that after years of being excluded from Soviet dictionaries and encyclopaedias the concept of charity was about to make a return to the Soviet statute book.

The weekly described as "remarkable" the recently published Draft Law On Co-operatives, which stated: "If part of the income (profit) of a co-operative is contributed to the Soviet Children's Fund, named after V.I. Lenin, the Soviet Peace Fund, the Soviet Culture Fund or for other

charitable purposes, it shall not be taxable."

Mr Vitaly Tretyakov, a Soviet journalist, noted that in recent reference books the word *blagovremennost*, meaning "charity", is often excluded, and earlier in Soviet history was belittled, as in volume 5 of the standard *Soviet Encyclopedia* of 1930, which dismissed it as "help hypocritically offered by members of the ruling class in order to deceive the working people."

"The aversion to charity — partially justifiable perhaps — prompted the compilers of the dictionaries quoted to banish 'charity' first to the West and then from their own dictionaries," Mr Tretyakov noted. "That is why these few lines in the Draft Law on Co-operatives in the Soviet Union made me very happy."

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Prayers for Korean peace
at Gloucesters' Hill 235

From Gavin Bell, Gloucester Hill, South Korea

There is a misty language that pervades the valley of Solma Ri in springtime as it emerges from the iron grip of the long Korean winter. The wooded hills are alive with birdsong and the murmur of brooks running past clusters of bright yellow forsythia and purple splashes of azalea.

The scene of pastoral charm is deceptive, masking 1,000 years of murderous conflict in a defile lying astride a historic invasion route through the peninsula.

Last weekend it echoed to the solemn refrain of a Highland lament, played by a bagpiper of the 10th Gurkha Rifles in memory of the men who fell in its last bloody fray.

An epigraph beside him, at the foot of what was once known simply as Hill 235, pays tribute to the 1st Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, which made a valiant last stand on its summit against overwhelming odds in one of the most illustrious actions of the Korean War.

Every year a small group of soldiers and other British residents of South Korea gather here to commemorate the battle with salutes, wreaths and a brief service of remembrance.

This year the prayers for peace were particularly timely. With tension rising again in the peninsula, the shallow trenches and foxholes of the "Glorious Gloucesters" have been deepened and reinforced with concrete blockhouses by a new generation of young Korean soldiers.

A few miles down the road, camouflage-netting covers batteries of big field guns, their barrels elevated to fire shells high above Gloucester Hill and beyond the Imjin river towards North Korea.

Amid the cherry blossoms, the Rev A. Appleby prayed for peace, especially during the forthcoming Olympic Games in Seoul. Major Vaughan Smedley of the Royal Signals read from Romans, Chapter 8:

"For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter... In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

A Gurkha bugler played the Last Post and, after two minutes' silence, Reveille before the wreaths were laid. After the lament and a blessing, British businessmen concluded the ceremony by awarding scholarships to pay for books and uniforms for the daughters of needy families attending a local high school.

We then repaired to an adjacent picnic site, and the laughter of children revived sombre spirits. English sa-

visions probably dating back to attacks by Mongol tribes and later warring between Korea's three kingdoms in the fourth century.

This was where the Gloucesters' A Company was first overrun and Lieutenant Philip Curtis, leading a counter-attack, won a posthumous Victoria Cross for wiping out a Chinese machine-gun team with hand-grenades even as their bullets killed him.

At the roll call after the battle the Gloucesters could muster only 67 officers and men. Some 59 had been killed and 526 fell into enemy hands. Of these, 34 died in captivity.

From Castle Hill, the foothills leading down to the little farming communities strung along the valley appear quiet and still. Nature has healed the scars of war in its customary fashion, with woodland and spring flowers. But the landscape is honeycombed with defences against renewed threats perceived from the north.

As our party broke up, a South Korean infantryman in full combat gear posed shyly for photographs with English children.

"He is there for the next time," Major Smedley said. ● SEUL: South Korea's 140,000 policemen went on top alert yesterday to thwart protests planned for today by students and dissidents making their first serious challenge to the Government of President Roh (Reuters reports).

A police spokesman said the alert would continue for three days "in view of massive protests anticipated around the April 19 anniversary" of the student uprising that toppled the country's first president, Syngman Rhee, in 1960. Student activists, who have failed to muster support for protests since Mr Roh took office in February pledging an end to authoritarian rule, said they would do their utmost to reactivate "student movement for genuine democracy."

Iran on defensive as Iraq gains in Fao peninsula

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

An attack by Iraq in the southern Fao peninsula appeared yesterday to be making further gains, throwing Iranian forces on to the defensive.

A claim by Iraq that its troops had recaptured the peninsula, entered the town of al-Fao, hoisted the Iraqi flag and destroyed Iranian positions, could not immediately be confirmed. Diplomatic sources said it was clear Baghdad was making a determined attempt to recapture the psychological initiative, dispelling international impressions that it was the weaker party in the war.

The first large Iraqi offensive for two years, timed to coincide with the beginning of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, has already caused heavy casualties on both sides.

Baghdad had earlier said that its troops had destroyed the last Iranian defensive perimeter on the peninsula and were "purging" the

remaining forces from the old oil terminal there.

An official claimed that thousands of Iranian soldiers and Revolutionary Guards had been killed, wounded or captured in the offensive, which began on Saturday night.

Tehran at first said that the Iraqi attacks had been repulsed, but yesterday reported that heavy fighting was continuing on the peninsula, which it has occupied since carrying out an assault across the Shatt al-Arab waterway in February 1986.

Iran also claimed that American helicopters had exchanged fire with Iranian forces on the peninsula late on Sunday. US officials said they were not aware of any American involvement there.

A communiqué by the Iraqi High Command said that troops of the Presidential Guard and the Seventh Army Corps had wiped out all

towards the terminal at the tip of the peninsula.

A diplomat in Baghdad suggested that Iraq may have ferried its armour along the Khawr Abd Allah channel for a final assault. The banks of the channel, which leads to Iraq's only naval base at Umm Qasr, were taken during the first hours of fighting, according to the Iraqis.

Iraq also claimed to have launched more missiles against Iran on Monday, firing two at Qom and one each at Tehran and Shiraz. Iran rejected the claims, saying that its offensive was seen by diplomatic sources yesterday as the latest in a long series of swings in its fortunes.

When it invaded its neighbour in 1980, after what it saw as Iranian provocation, Iraq appeared likely to keep the upper hand. Its forces were far better equipped and organized than those of the Iranians, who were suffering a severe

shortage of spare parts. The Iranian Army had yet to recover from the after-effects of the purges which followed the overthrow of the Shah. But Iraq, after gaining territory on three fronts in 1980, failed to press its advantage and the Iranians had time to recover.

An Iranian counter-attack in 1981 was followed by three more offensives in early 1982, in which the Revolutionary Guards, by then far better organized, attacked in waves reminiscent of the First World War.

Iraq gradually withdrew, giving up the territory it gained in 1980, and developed highly effective defensive tactics which stopped attempts to take Basra and a drive towards Baghdad in late 1982.

The following year the Iraqis slaughtered huge numbers of Iranian troops attempt-



US revives rose-tinted sentiments from the 60s

From Charles Bremner, New York

Students are marching against the CIA, and meditation classes are booming. A left-wing Democrat is pulling in the primary votes with an anti-war message and the radio stations are playing Bob Dylan and the Rolling Stones.

This is not a flashback to 1968, but the here and now. In the declining days of the Reagan era, the 1960s are making a comeback.

In the past week, Sonny and Cher, the minstrels of 1960s serenity, have hit the headlines — albeit separately, as a city mayor and an Oscar winner. ABC television has scored a smash with *The Wonder Years*, a series celebrating a 1960s childhood. Chrysler has begun using a Beatles song to sell its latest coupe, and the old LSD guru Timothy Leary has been talking about starting a television talk show.

Of course, the delicious decade never departed. It shaped the minds and habits of the class now

taking over the levers of national power. Scratch the glossiest 40-year-old corporate officer, and you will probably find a psychedelic youth.

From fashion to political ideology, Americans are going through a bout of nostalgia for the era that was both intoxicating and one of

At least there was fun then. Now we have Aids and acid rain

the most painful in its history. With the race riots and violence, the decade held far greater upheaval in the US than any other Western country except perhaps France.

But it is not the Vietnam trauma nor the Kennedy and King assassinations that are being celebrated. Through selective memory, *fin de siècle* America is reaching for the imagined innocence of the Age of Aquarius, the time of Scar-

borough Fair, long hair, peace, love and mystical Marxism.

"At least there was fun then. We didn't have to think the rain was poison. Now we have Aids and acid rain and no political heroes," said Hunter Thompson, the man once described as "the mad-dog prince of gonzo journalism".

The rosy memory is being worked over by Madison Avenue and the entertainment industry, all catering to the lost idealism and the simple life. At least three films about the 1969 Woodstock festival are in the works to add to the stream of period films already on release; the television is replaying old series like *Mr Ed*, the talking horse, commercials abound with 1960s themes like clips from *A Hard Day's Night*, and more and more "classic rock" radio stations are opening around the country.

The 1960s revisited are a sanitized version of the messy real thing. For example, now that drugs and tobacco are taboo, their part in

1960s culture is rarely remembered. And not everyone is getting the artifacts right. One Los Angeles florist tried to join the action by erecting a peace symbol — but confused it with the Mercedes logo.

Beyond the nostalgia for a lifestyle shared by the veterans and a young generation that never owned a pair of bell-bottom jeans, there are signs that America's young are awakening from political apathy to espouse some of the activism of the 1960s.

Students at Gallaudet University for the Deaf in Washington last month staged the biggest campus protest for years, and succeeded in ousting a newly-appointed chancellor in favour of a deaf candidate. At Middlebury College, Vermont, students have been demonstrating against recruitment by the CIA. "I see more alternative lifestyle people in this year's freshman class than in the last 10 years, more tie-dyed shirts," says Mrs Erica Wonnacott, the college dean.

With poverty now a top political issue, conscience-stricken yuppies are reportedly flocking to community work. Recruitment for the Peace Corps, President Kennedy's volunteer force abroad, is rising.

Mr Albert Gore, the 40-year-old candidate, has been busy trying to charm the New York nostalgia vote by appearing in TV commercials clad in a Vietnam-era combat jacket.

The biggest mobilizer of 1960s-type political sentiment is, of course, the Rev Jesse Jackson, the compassion candidate who has stirred millions of Democratic voters by preaching against the "economic violence" of the big corporations and denouncing the "war mentality" of the Reagan White House.

His campaign has tapped the new Zeitgeist and furnished a haven for dozens of left-wing policy intellectuals who have been out in the cold since the early 1970s. If a Democrat wins the election, he will be bound to bring

some of the Jackson activists into his administration.

The political legacy of the 1960s is the subject of a hot debate among left-wing thinkers. Their argument over "who really won" is being fuelled by the appearance of no fewer than a dozen books on the decade, and an issue of *Time*

Conscience-stricken yuppies see poverty as a political issue

magazine devoted to 1968, "annus mirabilis, the year America cracked open". Critics are pointing out that the new 1960s obsession reflects the arrival of ex-hippies in editors' chairs.

Most of the books see the decade as a gigantic educational experience, a pivotal period when America ventured into dangerous, experimental regions before recoiling to safety and counter-reformation. In *The Sixties*, the most acclaimed

Battle to get voters to polls in raucous New York primary

Jackson continues late surge despite racial bickering

From Charles Bremner, New York

New York state votes today in the most crucial primary of the presidential campaign so far, after two weeks of tribal politicking that have turned the Democratic contest into a referendum on the Rev Jesse Jackson.

As Mr Michael Dukakis and his staff spent yesterday imploring supporters to turn out, last-minute polls showed the black candidate closing in on the Massachusetts governor, but still lagging by 10 percentage points.

"It's a hell of a finish," said Mr Arthur Finkelstein, whose public-opinion company performed the survey for the *New York Post*, one of the tabloid newspapers whose screaming headlines about "Jax" added to the raucous name-calling of the two-week New York campaign.

If Mr Dukakis scores a clear victory, he will seal his position as front-runner and probable presidential candidate and soothe the anxieties of the party elders who are still in shock over the surge last month by the crowd-pleasing black preacher.

The key to the result will be turnout. Traditionally only about 12 per cent of eligible voters turn out in the primary, and Mr Dukakis's supporters are far more lukewarm about their candidate than are Mr Jackson's. After a campaign that fired no enthusiasm except among the Greek district of Astoria, Mr Dukakis's

staff admit they hope fear of Mr Jackson will motivate their voters.

A sizeable chunk of the electorate was also reported to be undecided between the two lacklustre whites and the electric Mr Jackson, who is seen by many as too radical to stand a chance in a national election.

The wild card is Senator Albert Gore, the young Tennessee senator who has so

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spokesman for the Jewish community, which accounts for 25 per cent of the Democratic vote, he has kept up a running anti-Jackson commentary and backed Mr Gore as the most pro-Israel candidate, offering his services with the words: "Have mouth and shoes, will travel."

On Sunday he poured further petrol on to the bonfire by branding Mr Jackson a liar. He said his actions and statements after the assassination in 1968 of Martin Luther King showed he had serious character flaws that would impair a Jackson presidency. "Under stress he is not capable of telling the truth," he said.

Poll figures show that about 70 per cent of the Jewish vote will go to Mr Dukakis, despite his less-than-fanatical support for Israel, and Mr Gore should reap more than 15 per cent.

Senior Democratic Party officials were reported to have called in strategists for the three candidates over the weekend to urge them to tone down the acrimony that they fear could lead to chaos at the nominating convention in Atlanta in July.

The Koch campaign against Mr Jackson has also produced something of a backlash from prominent Jews. Norman Mailer, the writer, yesterday rounded on the mayor, accusing him of "blasting the last rickety catwalk of communication between Jews and blacks in this city."



Final fling: Mr Dukakis winding up his New York campaign at a Gaelic football match.

He wrote in *The New York Times*: "I write these words as one of those crazies who will support Jesse Jackson for president. One does well not to choose an American president because he claims he will be good for Israel."

While Mr Koch has muddied himself in the thick of the battle, Governor Mario

Cuomo has maintained a statesmanlike neutrality from Albany, the state capital. Like a schoolmaster, he has urged the candidates to stop brawling and has avoided scrupulously the appearance of favouring any of them.

According to the most Byzantine theorists, the governor is still manoeuvring for

a chance to be drafted as the candidate, despite his protestations that he is not interested.

One man who has been able to survey the whole Democratic squabble with serenity is Vice-President George Bush, who faces no opposition in the Republican vote today.

Critical issue in role for vice president

New York

The next Vice President of the United States could also be the National Security Adviser if Governor Michael Dukakis wins the election in November. That was what he told me a couple of days ago.

"Supposing you selected a running-mate in part because that person was a very strong foreign policy-national security person with strong experience," he said. "I don't rule out the possibility of the Vice President being the National Security Adviser," he went on. "It's an interesting notion, if you pick him for that reason."



Geoffrey Smith

It would be more than an interesting notion. It would be a historic innovation.

Throughout our discussion Mr Dukakis insisted that he had to win the nomination before thinking more about a running mate. But if he wins the New York primary today and then in Pennsylvania next week he should have the Democratic nomination just about sewn up.

Regional links to strengthen ticket

His choice of running mate would then become the most critical question in the campaign. Would he be forced to take the Rev Jesse Jackson off the ticket without alienating black voters?

The first and most important criterion Mr Dukakis told me would be whether that person could make a first rate President if anything happened to the elected President. Beyond that he would like someone with regional links to strengthen the ticket and with the expertise to make a major contribution in office.

There would be difficulties, and I do not believe that Mr Dukakis has really thought the idea through. It would shift the balance of power between the Secretary of State and the National Security Adviser in a way that Mr Dukakis does not seem to want.

The National Security Adviser should, he told me, "be spending lots of time working in that job and very little time on *Meet the Press* on Sunday morning". But no Vice President in that position could be so self-effacing.

Indeed, a person who came to office with the required expertise in foreign policy and defence might accumulate exceptional power. That could be disconcerting for a President who was not himself a specialist in those fields. Would a President Dukakis really be comfortable with a Vice-President Nunn in that role? It might be too close to a co-presidency.

But a Dukakis-Nunn ticket, with the prospect of Mr Nunn playing a strong executive role in international policy, might go a long way to correct what is seen to be Mr Dukakis's weakness in foreign affairs. It could be the masterstroke of the 1988 campaign.

Smooth speaker holds key to Democrat choice

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Willie Brown is a smooth speaker, flashy dresser and, as Speaker of the California National Assembly, one of the most powerful Democrats in the state. He is also one of the most influential US black politicians.

His appointment in November as chairman of the Rev Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign was a vital turning point, bringing Mr Jackson prestige, experience, an invaluable network of political contacts, both black and white, and key support in America's largest state, which may well decide whether or not Mr Jackson is the Democratic nominee.

The 54-year-old lawyer is increasingly viewed as the key figure the Democrats will have to deal with in negotiations in Atlanta if, as seems likely, the national convention is deadlocked. He played that role in 1972, as co-chairman of the California delegation which was the key to winning the nomination for Mr George McGovern. He expects to play it again.

With a heavy load of governmental responsibility still in Sacramento, where his position as Speaker since 1980 is being challenged by five dissident Democrats, Mr Brown so far has dealt with broad policy and fund-raising issues of the Jackson campaign rather than with day-to-day operations.

But his tactical role is expected to become increasingly important. And as racial tensions, especially between blacks and Jews, continue to dog Mr Jackson's campaign, Mr Brown will play a vital role in attracting and holding white support. He is the man who appears nowadays on television to ward off, with patience and skill, the hostile comments on Mr Jackson's Middle East policy and the earlier association with Mr Louis Farrakhan, the black militant.

His success as a black in a predominantly white legislative body was one of the main reasons Mr Jackson courted him so assiduously. And his ability as a fund-raiser is already proving itself as big

money finally pours into the campaign coffers.

Mr Brown was not an early Jackson broker. In 1984, when Mr Jackson first ran, he served as national co-ordinator in the campaign of a rival Democratic candidate, Senator Alan Cranston. This year he began by backing Governor Mario Cuomo of New York, and acknowledges that he was originally attracted to the Jackson campaign as a vehicle to "get in the room" of the party elders who would pick the nominee at a brokered convention. "Jesse looks like my best agent," he was quoted as saying a year ago.

Somewhat embarrassed, he now says he has moved beyond that aim; his goal now is to "secure the nomination for Mr Jackson." Mr Jackson pursued Mr Brown relentlessly, telephoning him about 20 times before he persuaded him to head his campaign.

One of Mr Brown's first moves was to appoint Mr Gerald Austin, a Jew from the Bronx, as the campaign manager. He has proved a skilled

political organizer, and his presence at the heart of the campaign has helped to deflect some of the Jewish animosity to Mr Jackson.

Mr Brown also set about raising money — a skill for which he has become famous in California. He has already brought in \$1 million (\$530,000) in California, and some \$4.5 million overall, using big donors and direct-mail fund-raising to augment church pass-the-plate collections that have been the basis of Mr Jackson's funding.

Like Mr Jackson, Mr Brown began humbly, growing up in a one-room house in a segregated town in Texas. After school he hitched to San Francisco and worked as a janitor while living with an uncle and attending college and law school.

In 1959 he started a small law practice which he now admits primarily served pimps and prostitutes. Becoming active in civil rights demonstrations, he won a seat in the state assembly within five years, at the age of 30.

He rose quickly in Sacramento, becoming chairman of the ways and means committee in 1971 — a powerful fiscal post that paradoxically made him the nominal legislative author of Governor Ronald Reagan's state budgets.

In 1980 he became Speaker, a job that involved a lot of fund-raising, gave Mr Brown an office in the Capitol "bigger than my home town," matching his taste for a flamboyant life-style, \$1,000 suits and expensive sports cars.

Mr Brown is now fighting for his political base in California, as a revolt by five Democrats who have aligned themselves with the Republicans has robbed him of his legislative majority. He needs to win back the dissidents, or at least two more Democratic seats in the assembly, or his hopes for re-election as Speaker next year look dim.

But the wily Willie Brown is a shrewd fighter. His influence is not to be underestimated either in California or as the key figure in the Jackson campaign.

Bonn's plea after second F16 crash

Hermeskeil, West Germany (AFP) — A US F16 fighter crashed near here yesterday in the fourth accident involving a military aircraft and the second within three weeks involving an F16. The pilot ejected and landed safely, but the Defence Minister, Herr Manfred Woerner, asked the commander in chief of US air forces in Europe to suspend F16 flights until investigation establishes that there was no technical fault.

Queue switch

Nairobi (AFP) — Kenya's Minister for Political Affairs, Mr James Njiru, said that elections by secret ballot should be scrapped and the system of voting by queuing used last month should take over, *The Nation* reported.

Battling on

Rabat (AP) — King Hassan of Morocco issued a dispensation from the Ramadan fast to all people involved in the fight against the swarms of locusts invading North Africa.

Press poll

Peking (AFP) — A university poll has shown that a majority of 200 high-ranking personalities here would like to see a newspaper independent of the Communist Party.

Sikh ambush

Delhi (AFP) — Sikh militants ambushed a police patrol in Amritsar, leaving five policemen critically wounded.

Three killed

Nairobi (AFP) — A policeman ran amok in the streets here, killing three people including a colleague and wounding three others, reports said.

Two to hang

Kuala Lumpur (AFP) — The Penang High Court sentenced two men to death for trafficking in 13.12lb of heroin.

Coffin robbed

L'Aquila, Italy (Reuter) — Thieves have stolen the remains of the 13th century Pope Celestine V from a church here.

Canada frees French island's fishing protesters

From John Best in Ottawa and Susan MacDonald in Paris

The 21 Frenchmen jailed at the weekend for fishing illegally in Canadian waters returned to the French islands of St Pierre et Miquelon yesterday after having been released on bail.

The 21 — including a member of the French Chamber of Deputies and a senator — are residents of the tiny islands, just off the south coast of Newfoundland.

Their arrest last week, and the impounding at St John's, Newfoundland, of their boat, the Croix de Lorraine, represented the most serious incident in a long-simmering dispute between Canada and France over control of waters surrounding the islands.

A French spokesman expressed satisfaction yesterday that the Paris Government's determined action had resulted in the Canadians releasing the 21 men.

The French Prime Minister, M Jacques Chirac, called a Cabinet meeting Sunday night, and at the same time the French Ambassador to Canada, M Philippe Hussenot, was

recalled for consultations about what was called "a worsening of the French-Canadian dispute over fishing".

The Canadian Charge d'Affaires in Paris, Mr David Wright, was called into the French Foreign Office three times at the weekend to receive protests about the "intolerable" and "unacceptable" Canadian attitude.

The issue also intruded into the French presidential election campaign when President Mitterrand accused Canada of having taken "unjust and extremely restrictive measures" against those on board the Croix de Lorraine.

In some circles there was speculation that the sudden souring of relations could affect France's chances of winning a valuable Canadian defence contract.

However, the Canadian authorities have insisted in the past that the fishing dispute will have no bearing on the outcome of the competition for the contract, which involves a choice between French and British



M Chirac: Cabinet meeting as dispute worsened.

designs for \$Can8 billion (£3.4 billion) of nuclear submarines that Canada intends to purchase. The winner is due to be announced this summer.

The arrests stirred such feelings in France that Canadian travellers were reported to have been subjected to extraordinary delays by customs and passport officials. Mr Joe Clark, Canada's External Affairs Minister, took the reports seriously enough to issue a

statement denouncing what he called "arbitrary delays" and "harassment".

The Croix de Lorraine was boarded by officers from a Canadian fisheries patrol vessel last Thursday after it had stolen into Canadian waters with a television film crew on board.

It was a deliberate, well-publicized attempt by the islanders to draw attention to their plight during the French presidential election and to press the need for a solution to the dispute. The islanders earn their living from fishing but have been banned from Canadian waters since negotiations broke down.

The 6,000 residents of the islands are caught in the middle of the quarrel, which turns on France's claim to a 200-mile economic and fishing zone around St Pierre et Miquelon.

In the late 1970s, both Canada and France extended their economic limits to 200 miles, which meant that both are claiming the Gulf of St Lawrence. Canada maintains

that the islands are entitled only to a 12-mile zone.

In an effort to persuade France to accept international arbitration of the dispute, Canada closed its ports to French trawlers last year and barred them from Canadian waters, where they had been accustomed to fishing for generations. Negotiations over fishing rights broke down at the end of last year.

The Canadian authorities had wanted only to arrest the ship's captain, but everybody on board said that they were the captain so they were all arrested. Each person was charged with illegal fishing.

The 21 men were released, pending a preliminary hearing on October 3, after bail of \$Can30,000 was posted by the French Government. A hearing was set for May 27 to decide the fate of the impounded boat.

One of those imprisoned, M Albert Pen, the Mayor of St Pierre and a senator, complained of having been treated in a "degrading" fashion by Canadian authorities.

M Gerard Grignon, a member of the Chamber of Deputies, said he had been "humiliated". However M Victor Reux, another politician, told reporters that he had been well treated.

Refugee controls: A handful of forlorn Turks have found out the hard way that the Canadian authorities mean business when they talk about getting tough with bogus refugees.

About 100 staged a 125-mile trek from Montreal to Ottawa recently to plead with the Government one last time for permission to remain in Canada. Their poignant appeal fell on deaf ears, however.

About 2,000 Turks face expulsion, having arrived in Canada in 1986 under a scheme orchestrated by travel consultants in Turkey who assured them — falsely — that they would be able to qualify for refugee status once here.

The Turks' march gave the Government an opportunity to signal a tightening of the rules, which have been widely flouted in the past. Mrs Bar-

April 18 1988

Britain 'told but not consulted' about Gulf action

Britain had been told by the United States of its intention to attack Iranian installations in the Gulf, but was "not consulted as such", Mr David Meller, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, told MPs.

He also said that the idea of a joint UN naval force in the Gulf was a credible option today was a piece of escapism.

He was replying to a renewed suggestion for a UN naval force from Mr Gerald Kaufman, Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

In reply to a private notice question by Mr Kaufman, Mr Meller outlined the events since a US frigate struck a mine in international waters last week, and said that the US Navy had attacked Iranian installations in response.

"We support the American action as a measured and appropriate response to the Iranian aggression. He condemned the subsequent attacks by Iran on shipping.

Mr Kaufman said that nine months had gone by since the passage of Security Council resolution 598 calling for a ceasefire. The obduracy and procrastination of Iran had prevented progress, despite the fact that the Foreign Secretary had said that there would be discussion of enforcement measures.

He (Mr Kaufman) had twice said that United States action and tit-for-tat exchanges could lead to further escalation and grave consequences for peace. A ratchet of that escalation had been turned most dangerously today.

The Opposition condemned mine-laying as well as the most recent Iranian aggression, including the outrageous attack on the York Marine, but was that not a direct consequence of the US attack on Iranian oil installations?

How could the American attack be reconciled with the UN resolution calling on other states to exercise restraint and refrain from acts which could lead to further escalation?

On his recent visit to the Gulf, British naval personnel had told

FOREIGN OFFICE

him that they were prepared to do the job this country had sent them to do, but had expressed concern that they were placed at risk by American action related to undisclosed rules of engagement. Such a self-imposed role was not the prerogative of the US nor of any other maritime nation.

"It is time that all naval fleets in the Gulf were placed under UN command so that Iran and Iraq are in no doubt that any attack on the vessels or installations of any non-combatant is an attack on the world community."

The permanent members should go to the Security Council and demand a mandatory arms embargo. They should waste no further time before securing follow-up action.

Mr Meller: We have been taking the lead in trying to secure follow-up action and have been instrumental in drafting a follow-up resolution for an arms embargo. It is not through any act or default on our part that the follow-up resolution has not been agreed.

The only reason that there had not been more attacks like the recent ones by the Iranians was the presence of British, American, and other forces in the Gulf. The Armilla patrol and other forces, like the Americans, would remain and continue to do their duty.

The reason for the recent actions was the decision by the Iranians to resume their cowardly mine-laying operations again.

The US had been fully entitled under the right of self-defence of Article 51 of the UN Charter to take action against the Iranian platforms, which had been used, as the Americans said, to facilitate attacks on the US ship.

It was unrealistic to say that there was a requirement for a UN force (Labour protests).

Mr David Howell (Guildford, C) said that Mr Kaufman's words were totally inappropriate and unconstructive. The need now, after the difficulties into which the UN resolution had got and actions by the Iraqis

that had prejudiced their position, was for an effective and tough arms embargo against the Iranian fanatics.

Mr Meller agreed. There had been fault on both sides but one thing was absolutely clear. The Iraqis would have accepted Resolution 598 and the Iranians had persistently refused to do so. That was the matter which the international community had to address.

Sir Russell Johnston, SLD spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said that increased trade with Britain enabled Iran in part to provide the sinews of war which were behind this. "We ought to re-examine our position."

On the attack on the platforms, did Mr Meller not fear that escalation would ensue from this sort of action? Were there any casualties on the York Marine or any British citizens?

Mr Meller: There might well be casualties, but we have no further details at present. As far as we know, the crew of the York Marine are Indian, but that does not lessen the seriousness with which we regard this incident.

The escalation was the cynical, cowardly act by the Iranians in mining international waters, a haphazard business which could have resulted in the loss of any ship travelling in that vicinity.

The US was entitled to make a measured and proportionate response under international law in pursuance of the right of self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter. That is what the US did.

Our exports to Iran have fallen sharply in recent years to about £240 million. There is no trade with Iran in arms, ammunition or any equipment and supplies that could extend the war. That has been our position for a long time.

Mr Peter Temple-Morris (Leominster, C) said that the Iranians in this situation must be contained. Once committed in the Gulf, the Americans had to resist and must be supported by the House.

Would he accept that the UK was in a greater context involved in the divided opinion which it exercised insufficient overall control? Would he do his

Mates faces angry Tories

Mr Michael Mates, opening the Commons debate on his proposal for banding the community charge, quickly ran into opposition from fellow Conservatives and the minister.

They suggested that higher tax payers would face big increases in the community charge bills and that his proposal would not curb spending by left-wing Labour councils.

Mr Mates (East Hampshire, C), moving the new clause at the start of the report stage of the Local Government Finance Bill, said that he was proposing that the community charge should be banded.

The first band would be for those who did not pay income tax. The second would be for the 90 per cent plus of the population which paid income tax at the standard rate. The third was for those who paid income tax at the higher rate.

The new clause had been worked out as a result of something the Secretary of State for the Environment (Mr Nicholas Ridley) had said during the second reading debate.

Mr Ridley had challenged Conservative MPs, if they had a better idea, to produce it and he had said any such idea would be considered.

Mr Ridley had been true to his word. He and his officials had looked at this and then said: Thank you very much, we do not like it.

Mr Ridley had said that the new clause was unsatisfactory because it produced a sudden and painful earnings trap.

Mr Gerald Howarth (Can-



Students of the Royal College of Nursing arriving by bus at the Commons yesterday to protest against the poll tax. They also protested at Downing Street during their tour of London (Photograph: Dennis McNeelance)

nock and Burnwood, C), in an intervention, said that nine million people were protected under the Government scheme because they were on lower incomes.

Mr Winston Churchill (Davyhulme, C), in an intervention, asked how many would benefit under Mr Mates's scheme who would not otherwise benefit under the Government scheme.

Mr Mates said he could not say precisely because the Gov-

ernment could not tell him. There was a step between the standard rate taxpayer and the person on higher rate tax, but ministers claimed this was a step of hundreds of pounds by using for their argument the worst case rather than the average case.

Ministers claimed that £1 of increased income at the level of £22,000 a year would produce an increased liability of £600 on community charge. If that was

the case, they had failed in the whole objective of the legislation which was to prevent by increasing accountability high spending councils levelling enormous community charges.

The argument must be conducted about the average increase, and not an extreme increase. A few pounds of extra income at the level of £22,000 a year would produce an increased community charge liability of £85.

Mr Michael Howard, Minister for Local Government, in an intervention, said that the average community charge in 1987-88 would have been £224. Half of that was therefore not £85 but £112.

Under Mr Mates's scheme, wives paid at the same rate as husbands, so it was possible for someone with an extra £1 income a year to end up, on the average community charge, paying an extra £224.

Big pay offer for lawyers

Lawyers working in the Crown Prosecution Service are to be offered an immediate, large pay rise. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, said during question time.

"I am confident", he added, "that this will lead to a marked improvement in the recruitment figures in the service and better reward those who have worked with commitment since the creation of the service."

Mr Kenneth Elad (West Lancashire, C) said that this was welcome news, but what effect did the Attorney General think that it would have on morale as well as on recruitment?

Sir Patrick said that, having visited half the Crown Prosecution Service areas, he was confident that the increase in pay would have an encouraging effect on recruitment and retention.

Praise for secret service

Were the successful prosecutions of Geoffrey Prime in 1982 and Michael Bettanney in 1984 just the tip of an iceberg, Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing North, C) asked during question time.

Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Solicitor General, said that there was no reason to think that members of the security and intelligence services were anything other than loyal, dedicated public servants.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) said that it would be helpful if the Attorney General could take seriously the allegations that subversion had taken place by some members of the security forces against the elected Government in the 1970s.

Sir Nicholas Lyell said that he had nothing to add to the statement which had been made to the House on the matter.

£3m a year for schools

The Department of Employment is to spend £3 million a year for the next four years to support 12 employment-school companies in inner-city target areas, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, said in a written answer.

Employers will guarantee a job with training to young people from inner-city schools who meet agreed standards of achievement and motivation. Inner-city schools will commit themselves to bring pupils towards these standards.

'Spycatcher' costs detailed

The total cost to the Government so far in all court action in respect of the book *Spycatcher* is about £522,000, plus about £90,000 for travelling and subsistence, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, said in a Commons written reply.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions; Education and Science; Prime Minister; Local Government Finance Bill, remaining stages, second day.

Lords (2.30): Education Reform Bill, second reading, conclusion.

Education Bill faces onslaught

The Government was warned by peers that they will strongly oppose the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority, which had been added to the Education Reform Bill in the House of Commons.

Many of the provisions in the Bill were criticized from all sides of the House of Lords during the first day of a two-day debate on the Bill's second reading.

Opening the debate, Lady Hooper, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that the proposal that there should cease to be a single education authority for London was in the Conservatives' 1987 election manifesto.

To protests from Opposition peers, she said that there was still excessive expenditure with mediocre or poor results by ILEA. Despite mischievous stories to the contrary, the Government believed that the transfer of responsibility would be less disruptive if all boroughs became local education authorities at the same time.

The Department of Education and Science would be publishing draft guidance to the inner London boroughs later this week. The boroughs would be required to follow this guidance when assuming responsibility for education in 1990 and it would include the scope for co-operative arrangements.

Watched by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, Lady Hooper described the different provisions in the Bill, stating that its aim was to take the education system into the twenty-first century.

Lord Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, is to give his views on reforming the Official Secrets Act in his maiden speech in the House of Lords tomorrow.

He is one of 12 peers who have put their names down to speak in the second reading debate on the Protection of Official Information (No 2) Bill, introduced by Lord Bethell, a Conservative peer. Also making a maiden speech will be Lord Knights, the former Chief Constable of the West Midlands.

The Bill is virtually identical to the measure introduced by Mr Richard Shepherd, Conservative MP for Aldridge-Brownhills, which the Government "killed off" at second reading.

By contrast, Lord Bethell's Bill is likely to receive an unopposed second reading. He is, however, reluctant to press on with it as the Government whips have warned him that the mass of Government business leaves little time for a detailed scrutiny.

Lord Bethell is seeing Mr



Lord Bethell: Unopposed second reading likely

Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, today to urge him to disclose as much information as possible of what will be in the "secrets" White Paper.

Yesterday, Lord Bethell said: "It will be extremely useful to have an exchange of views at this stage when a Government minister (Earl Ferrers) will be replying to points put by the House of Lords at a time when the Government is about to give birth to their White Paper."

Labour attacks Norwegian bid for shipyard

The proposal by a Norwegian engineering company to buy the Govan shipyard on the Clyde has been attacked by Labour MPs when it was outlined in a Commons statement.

Mr Bryan Gould, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said that the proposed sale was "a further example of the Government's readiness to sell off to foreign interests an investment in a strategic British industry which it is not prepared to sustain itself."

"If Govan is an attractive asset to a Norwegian company, why can it not be supported in the national interest by the British Government? If the Norwegians have work to place with Govan, why must that be accompanied by giving away the yard as well?"

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister of Trade and Industry, said in the statement that the company, Kvaerner Industries, had today delivered a Letter of Intent to British Shipbuilders, offering to buy the yard. It was used as its centre for building specialized gas-carrying ships.

"I regard this as a very welcome proposal. I hope the negotiations succeed."

Kvaerner would attach certain conditions to the agreement, and restructuring would be inevitable to ensure that the yard was fully competitive in the international market place.

But the company would undertake to place an order for two medium-size LPG carriers to be built at Govan for delivery in 1990 and 1991, and intended to transfer its gas-ship technology to the UK via the yard by

giving project support and assistance for ships built there.

"Thereafter, Kvaerner plans to develop Govan into its centre for gas-ship technology in support of worldwide activities in this sphere."

BS had been approached about the disposal of a number of its facilities, notably at Govan and at Appledore, in Devon. "These approaches are being considered in line with our policy of returning as much of the corporation as possible to the private sector."

He said that the chairman of British Shipbuilders had told him of contractual difficulties with the ferry programme at North East Shipbuilders, in Sunderland.

"Naturally, I hope these difficulties can be overcome and I am keeping closely in touch with developments. I will keep the House closely informed and make a further statement, if necessary, in due course."

Mr Gould said that the statement raised not only major question marks over the future of the Govan yard, but even more worrying questions over the viability of what would then be left of BS.

What assurances could be given on jobs and pension rights? How much taxpayers' money would be written off and what price would be paid in return for the substantial investment by the taxpayer?

"Is this death by a thousand cuts not the inevitable consequence of the policy of dismembering BS, on which the Government embarked four years ago?"

He could not give details of the terms on which the Government would dispose of the yard. Negotiations would now be taking place and, if the purchase

year unless there are any further orders."

Mr Tony Speller (Devon North, C) said that the Appledore yard was one of the smaller shipyards, but vital to the economies of north Devon and north Cornwall.

Mr Robert Clay (Sunderland North, Lab) said that the contractual difficulties of North East Shipbuilders were the responsibility of its customer, rather than its own management or workforce. Its programme was running on time.

Mr Clarke's statement would strike great fear into the hearts of everyone committed to the future of British merchant shipbuilding.

The uncertainty surrounding the industry made it virtually impossible for North East Shipbuilders or any other BS subsidiary to win new orders.

Mr Clarke said that he regretted the uncertainty and its effects. He was keeping in touch with the discussions surrounding North East Shipbuilders and he hoped they would be successful.

"If they are not, because these are the only orders at the present time, we face a serious situation."

Mr Clarke said later that neither the chairman of BS nor he had any approach from anyone interested in buying North East Shipbuilders, but BS and the Government would welcome any serious approach.

Mr Nicholas Brown (Newcastle upon Tyne East, Lab) described the statement as "the combination of the nationalized shipbuilding industry"

Clarke welcomes proposal

used as a storage vessel at the time it was attacked.

"We shall just want to take a cool look at the situation. We do not have all the facts just now."

Mr David Young (Bolton South East, Lab) asked whether, in view of Britain's so-called special relationship with the United States, there had been any consultation between the two countries about the retaliatory action taken, which must inevitably involve some form of escalation and which would therefore increase the threat to the lives of British seamen.

Mr Meller said that it was a matter for individual judgement, but he thought that a failure to deal with the laying of mines in international waters by the Iranians would have been a greater threat to the lives of British seamen than the alternative action that had been taken.

"We were notified a few hours before that this was going to happen, but we were not consulted as such."

Mr George Galloway (Glasgow, Hillhead, Lab) said that Labour MPs were in favour of a tough response against Iranian aggression, but what troubled them was what troubled Royal Navy personnel to whom he had spoken in the Gulf was the unilateral nature of the United States action.

He had heard the minister say that a UN-commanded naval force in the Gulf was impractical

used as a storage vessel at the time it was attacked.

Mr Clarke said that Kvaerner would prefer to buy the yard. "We cannot force them to place orders in the yard on any other terms than those in which Kvaerner are interested."

The yard was currently working on two Chinese container ships. "That work will be completed in the reasonably near future. Lay-offs will begin in the course of this year if no other work is forthcoming and the yard would have to close by next

year unless there are any further orders."

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Lord Bethell is seeing Mr

مكثان الأصيل

SPECTRUM

Tournament of the Mind



The top schools compete this week for an IBM computer

From the hundreds of schools throughout Britain which took part in the preliminary rounds, the 11 top-scoring schools are competing in the five-day final this week. The questions, set by Mensa, are of the same standard of difficulty as those in last week's Individual Final, but can be tackled by school teams of up to 10 pupils each.

The winning school will receive an IBM Personal System/2 Model 30 computer, and all the finalists will receive a certificate to mark their achievement. Each school in the final has received printed

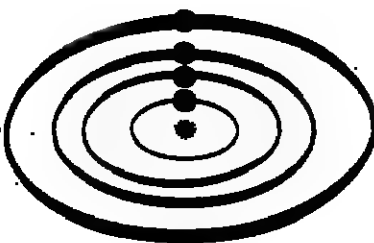
question and answer forms which will have to be returned in time to be received by April 27.

Competitors in the individual final, which was held last week, are reminded that their completed pre-printed answer forms have to be received by April 22, and that the winners' names will be published in *The Times* in the week beginning April 25, along with the answers to the final questions.

In the event of a tie further questions will be set until an outright winner is found.

LOGIC

If you look at the diagram you will see that four planets are in orbit around a star, each moving clockwise. The outer planet takes 21 years to complete an orbit, the next 9 years, the next 7 years and the inner one 3 years. At the moment, the planets are in line with each other and their sun. When will they next form a line with each other and their sun?



SCHOOLS' FINAL - ROUND TWO

2 VERBAL

The groups of letters which follow are jumbled words. Unscramble them and discover the most obvious odd one out.

SYMEOR
RODINE
OOMBLOC
PHABOL

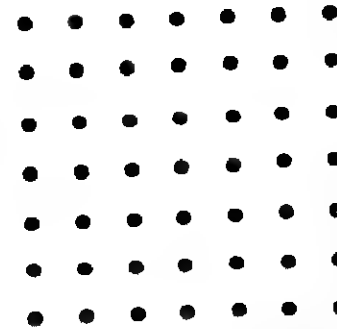
* Sources other than Collins English Dictionary have been used for this question

3 MATHS

Replace the question marks with mathematical symbols so that the equation is completed:
 $((33\% \div 7) \div 2) \div \frac{1}{4} = 2.517\%$

4 MISCELLANEOUS

Here is a seven by seven array of dots. How many different but perfect squares of any size can be found in such a way that each corner of each square lies on a dot?



GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

1. Which Bolivian city is to be found at an altitude of 4,066 metres?
2. Which English composer who lived from around 1565 to 1640 had more than 50 of his pieces for the virginals included in the *Fitzwilliam Virginal Book*?
3. In a Spanish dance with three beats to the bar the music begins slowly and becomes faster. When it stops, the dancers freeze. What is the dance?
4. Which Japanese artist produced the print series *53 Stages of the Tokaido Highway*?
5. Which war confirmed the supremacy of Macedonia in Greece after the death of Alexander the Great?

Long day's journey into nightcaps

Alcohol alters us. Jancis Robinson charts its effects on mental and physical health

The single most important thing we can do to improve our attitude towards alcohol is to become aware of how much we ingest... and recognize what it can do to us. For too long many of us have ignored how it might affect our behaviour and health.

In medical terms, alcohol falls into the same category as narcotics, barbiturates and anaesthetics. Far from being a stimulant, it reduces the activity of the central nervous system, and in particular the working of the brain. In fact, alcohol sedates, as any lunch-time drinker finds out in mid-afternoon. But initially it makes us feel more excited and animated because the first thing to be suppressed is the mechanism that usually controls our inhibitions.

The feeling that drinking "takes the lid off" our normal behaviour is therefore appropriate, however discomforting it may seem to discover we have other personalities that are kept tightly in check throughout our sober lives. It also helps to explain why we all react in such different ways under the influence: some raucous, some maudlin, some laconic, some sullen. Our drunken behaviour very much depends on what happens to be lurking under the lid.

Interestingly, it also depends on how we feel we ought to behave when inebriated. We most commonly associate behaviour that is animated, talkative and generally socially flirtatious (with or without the sexual connotation) with drink. In other cultures, for example Aboriginal and North American Indian groups, alcohol is more commonly associated with torpor



when we are sober. This might explain why some people seem able to drive even when heavily intoxicated. They might acquire the knack of drunken driving as a special learning process, dreadful thought though this is.

Such compartmentalized living would certainly help to explain the Jekyll-and-Hyde syndrome: why some people's skills, predilections and even characters when drunk seem so different from when they are sober.

Other experiments have shown that alcohol, even in low doses, can quite severely affect vision. Long before the "seeing double" phase, our focusing ability and ability to follow the path of moving objects is seriously affected. At higher blood-alcohol levels, the ability to distinguish between shades and intensities of light is impaired, with our sensitivity to red - the stop-light colour - being particularly badly affected.

Adapted from Jancis Robinson on the *Demon Drink*, to be published by Mitchell Beazley next Monday (£9.95).



ganism and, Saturday-night pub warfare, as a counterpart to the apparently stimulating intellectual discussion or amusing gossip around dinner tables in other British sub-cultures. (Even more amazing, as evidence of the weird and wonderful ways in which alcohol affects us, is the fact that

we take on our inebriated personality even if given a placebo rather than alcohol.) Alcohol usually diffuses widely and evenly into our body tissues, altering the structure of cell walls and making them more fluid. This interferes with the way nerve signals and chemicals used in the metabolic process are transmitted through our cells, most obviously manifesting itself as lack of co-ordination and slurred speech. Yet the disinhibiting effect of alcohol convinces us we are more capable after a drink or two.

It has been shown that drivers with less than the legal limit of alcohol in their systems need to add up to 30% of "thinking distance" to the distance needed to stop, to allow for their lethargic reactions. In one often-quoted driving simulation, bus drivers proposed driving through gaps far too narrow when the alcohol concentration in their blood was only 50mg/100ml - a level that could be reached after three "units" of alcohol (a unit is approximately half a pint of beer, a small glass of wine or a single pub measure of spirits). In those most susceptible to the effects of alcohol, the risk of a traffic accident starts to increase rapidly at only 30mg/100 ml, or two drinks. This is the level at which almost everyone's reaction times start to slow.

At the maximum permitted blood-alcohol level for drivers, 80mg/100ml, reached after drinking five units in an hour, almost everyone is medically intoxicated, and many people's driving ability is materially impaired. This is why there is a very good case for making domestic breath-alysers more widely available, and accurate (and, some think, for lowering the legal blood-alcohol limit).

A person with a concentration of 100mg/100ml is usually observably inebriated, and at a level as high as 200mg/100ml would be very obviously clumsy and emotionally impaired. At 300mg/100ml, most people would be grossly intoxicated and thereafter pass out. Those who didn't, and somehow managed to continue to drink, would die or go into a coma at a blood-alcohol concentration of about 500mg/100ml.

In general, it takes about an hour to rid the blood of the alcohol in one drink. After 12 units (six pints, six doubles or a bottle and a third of wine), the drinker is still under the influence 12 hours later, which means that some people are not entirely sober even when they drive to work.

We all vary in our ability to cope with alcohol. This, of course, is often the excuse

offered erroneously by people for their over-indulgence: the "Oh, I'm lucky, I can take it" syndrome. It seems sensible for anyone who drinks to learn when they are most sensitive to its effects.

Speed of drinking is significant. If someone downs, say, five pints or a bottle of fairly potent wine in an hour, raising blood-alcohol level to about 150mg/100ml, he may well appear to be behaving normally but will be unable later to recall what he did. Most of us are only too uncomfortably aware that we have less than perfect recall of what is said around a well-lubricated dinner table. Many surveys have shown that more than 15 per cent of people confess to an alcohol-induced blackout in the previous year. Repeated and regular blacking out may well be a sign of problem drinking.

The mortifying mechanisms of memory loss are not properly understood, and nor are the mechanisms that explain the near-converse of that process. Psychologists have found that if we are taught things when we are intoxicated, we are much more likely to remember them when we are re-intoxicated than

We're going over the wire tonight



WALL OF TYRANNY

Tony Danza, Colette Stevenson and David McCallum star in this romantic drama of the hopeless love between a G.I. and an East German girl separated by the infamous Berlin Wall.

TONIGHT AT 8.00pm.



SAFE DRINKING: THE LIMITS AND THE RISKS

There is no simple equation to tell us how much alcohol is going to harm us. Safe limits are difficult to define for a number of reasons: individual susceptibility varies widely; data relying on self-reporting are notoriously unreliable; there is widespread ignorance of the exact alcoholic content of drinks; and alcohol is often served in such a way as to make monitoring difficult.

In 1982, the Royal College of Psychiatrists recommended as "reasonable guidelines for the upper limit" a daily intake of 60-80 grams of alcohol (roughly four pints of beer, four double measures of spirits or a bottle of 11 per cent wine). The same year, the *British Medical Journal's* "ABC of Alcohol" suggested 60g a day for men, 30g for women.

Less than five years later, the Royal Colleges of Psychiatrists and Physicians said that more than 400g of alcohol a week for men (25 pints), or 280g for women, greatly increases risk of harm; and that "sensible limits" are 168g a week (averaging three units of alcohol a day) for men and 112g a week (two units a day) for women. This was advice

seen by some to be so rigorous as to be counter-productive. It is liver damage that usually first suggests a brake on alcohol consumption for most men. Fatty liver may be treatable if caught in time, but cirrhosis is more grave (2,582 deaths in England and Wales in 1985, compared with more than 100 times that number from diseases of the circulatory system), but it is extremely dangerous.

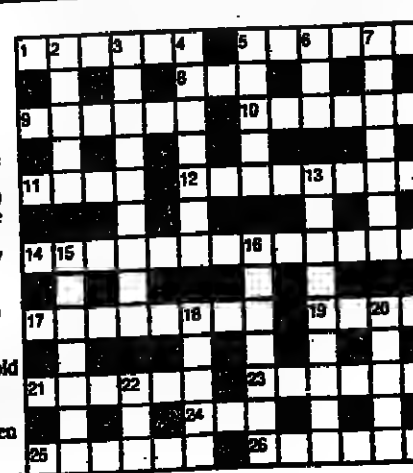
For most male drinkers, a "sensible" upper limit would seem to fall between 20g and 40g a day (two-and-a-half to five units of alcohol). Women should worry about any consumption in view of new research on breast cancer, although this link is not yet medically (as opposed to statistically) of high status. Also, the female liver is more susceptible to alcohol-related damage. It would seem wise, therefore, for women who are not pregnant or intending to conceive (in which case they should have none) to limit consumption to 20g, equivalent to just a third of a bottle of wine a day, much as it pains this writer to admit it.

The following should be particularly wary about their intake of alcohol, for a variety of reasons

AT RISK	WHY
Women	Liver damage, accelerated absorption of alcohol at ovulation and just before a period, possibly increased risk of breast cancer
Pregnant women	Miscarriage, low birthweight of baby, birth defects
Women who are trying to conceive	As above (most damage is done in the first three months, when the woman may not know she is pregnant); possibly decreased fertility
Men whose partners are trying to conceive	Reduced sperm count
Those with high blood pressure	Increased blood pressure, hypertension, possibly stroke
Those with gastric or duodenal ulcer	Gastritis
Those who have had a partial gastrectomy	Much accelerated absorption
Those on medication	Drink interacts with other drugs
Insulin-dependent diabetics	Excessive drinking may fatally inhibit the liver's glucose production
Cardiomyopathy sufferers	Heart muscle will become even more fatty if heavy drinking continues

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1543

- ACROSS: 1 Scraps (6), 5 Scruffy (6), 8 Grope (3), 9 Slow movement (6), 10 Dagger (6), 11 Egyptian Christian (4), 12 Hereditary study (6), 14 S Dakota president's monument (5,8).
- DOWN: 2 Fabric (4), 3 Jack (4), 4 Right (4), 5 Advance (4), 6 Marigold (4), 7 Rash (4), 8 Ballyhoo (4), 9 Partook (4), 10 Calm (4), 11 Rob Roy (4), 12 Rat (4), 13 Charlie Parker (4), 14 Assyrus (4), 15 Grip (4), 16 Yodel (4), 17 Hello (4), 18 Zoom (4), 19 Cub (4).



TOMORROW

The politics of drink: is alcohol's vivifying effect on Treasury income a barrier to reform?

TIMES DIARY SHIRLEY LOWE

It's a proper country wedding, said Shirley Conran on Saturday as her eldest son, Sebastian, and his bride, fashion designer Georgina Godley, jumped into the Bentley Continental (ex Elizabeth Taylor) and purred off down the drive of Barton Court - father Sir Terence's Berkshire estate - en route to honeymoon in India.

And so it was, but such perfect simplicity does not come cheap or easy. Most of us accepted the invitation to walk the three quarters of a mile to the church with Sebastian. He, incidentally, is the son who designs things (such as Britain's most popular baby buggy); Jasper is the son who designs clothes. We forded streams in our finery and got our Jordanian heels stuck in the mud. The bride and groom led the way back to the house, after the ceremony, with Jasper, the best man, gallantly holding the bride's train above the puddles.

There were flowers everywhere (courtesy of stepmother, the cookery writer Lady Caroline), magnolias of Krug quenched our thirst and the main course at lunch was medium rare fillet steak and fresh asparagus served simultaneously (hot) to 250 people. Sebastian's uncle, Antonio Carluccio, presiding genius at the Neal Street restaurant, had set up a sort of mammoth barbecue in a tent. "It wasn't easy," he under-stated afterwards.

There was a lot of style at this wedding: not least among the guests, self-consciously expressing their individuality. Sir Terence wore a blue lounge suit but most of the older men put on trad morning suits and their women wore hats; a number of these hats turned out to be the ultimate Chanel straw, a sincere Schiaparelli copy or a little something from the wearers' last collection. Younger women plaited their hair into interesting shapes in lieu of a hat and there was quite a nymph and faun feeling with pretty girls hung about in exquisite shreds of designer chiffon.

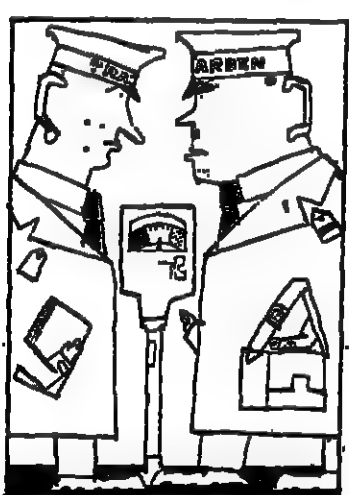
A much photographed fashion designer (male) had on tiny little green knitted shorts, knitted stockings plus suspenders revealing a rather worrying inch of hairy leg, and a bald head decorated with a mini-wig and earrings. Lord Weymouth, the peer with the pigtail, in a simple woven brown-on-beige appliqué jacket with draped trousers and matching handbag, was musing sorrowfully on teenage rebellion: his daughter wants him to buy "an ordinary suit"; his son calls him "an old lefty"; and, like all fathers, Lord Weymouth worries about his son's hair. "It's so short," he said. "Got to do something about it."

The speeches by the father of the bride (an actor) and the best man were witty and pithy. Sebastian, gazing at his wife with frank adoration, said he thought he had never seen such a pretty sight and Georgina grabbed the microphone to tell Shirley and Terence that in spite of all his clever designs and her successful books, their best production ever was Sebastian, and she loved him.

Georgina is refreshingly down to earth. Her wedding list (Harrods, rather than Habitat) started with the *Readers Digest Do It Yourself Manual*, and she not only designed and made her own wedding dress but was at the sewing machine the previous night finishing off the bridesmaids' dresses.

Shirley Conran had arrived from Monte Carlo the previous day with two wedding outfits in her case (floral suit for sunshine, sensible navy two-piece for grey skies). But Jasper put her into a bright red coat with trailing lace hanky. "Now it's really going to be hell to be unfashionable in this family," she said.

BARRY FANTONI



"Unpopular? Just think, you could have been a DISS official!"

My rural weekend continued with a visit to a sculpture garden in Wiltshire. This is the second year that Madeleine Ponsbury, owner of the New Art Centre in Sloane Street, has moved 30 or so pieces of sculpture from her London gallery to the garden of Roche Court, her country house. The opening was on Sunday. Prospective buyers will be able to view, by appointment, at weekends throughout the summer.

It posed, for me, the usual dilemma of displaying sculpture. Most pieces need a simple white studio background. They are too big, or too strong, for the average home. And only the figurative work - Antony Gormley's entwined couple, poignantly reflecting obsessive love and rejection, and Elizabeth Frink's barking dog - seemed at ease among the trees and shrubs. No matter how creatively the sculptor works his stainless steel, Indian granite or whatever, he is competing with nature, and inevitably the magnolia always wins.

I dropped into the Reform Club for dinner the other evening. This must be one of the most beautiful 19th century buildings in London. Sir Charles Barry's central piazza making a perfect setting for the 160 lady members. Most of them, I noticed, wore something black and white, and businesslike so that they blended with the male members. One of them even smoked a cigar and slumped in her club chair in the proper manner. After dinner Nigel Wickens, a singing tutor at Cambridge, gave a recital. The armchairs were pushed to the back of the room and about a dozen of us perched on extremely hard gold chairs and smiled encouragingly at him and his pianist. I have to admit that my smile wavered when Mr Wickens said: "I am going to begin with sixteen songs by Schuman." Why, I wonder, is culture invariably so uncomfortable.

The Soviet Union and the United States might soon start working in undisguised co-operation to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Provided that the murder of Abu Jihad in Tunis last Saturday does not wreck the chances of a new initiative, a pointer to superpower partnership could be taken when Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, and George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, meet in Moscow on Thursday.

At the signing of the Afghanistan agreement in Geneva last Thursday, Shevardnadze said he hoped the accord would provide a model for US-Soviet co-operation in solving other regional conflicts, including that of the Middle East. Not much attention was given to his remark at the time, except in Israel, because the focus was on the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. But the publication by Pravda of an editorial on similar lines at the weekend showed he was not speaking out of turn.

American sources hint that he will find a receptive ear on Thursday. Far from trying to keep Moscow out of an American preserve, Shultz is expected to welcome his counterpart's

approach. They will probably lay the groundwork for discussions at the Reagan-Gorbachev Moscow summit in July. Some diplomats think an agreement to tackle the Middle East jointly could be the jewel in the summit's crown, given that an accord on cutting strategic nuclear arsenals by 50 per cent seems unlikely to be ready.

It would be an enormous boost for Gorbachev, whose critics at home feel that his foreign policy has been all give and no take. After being almost shut out of the Middle East for years, the Soviet Union would be a main player, symbolizing its vast increase in international prestige since 1985.

Until last year no one would have expected Washington to want any Soviet involvement in Arab-Israeli talks. But that assumption took a knock with Shultz's suggestion last October that the two superpowers should

provide a political umbrella for talks between Israel and its neighbours; it faded further when the Washington summit produced hopeful noises.

There has clearly been a sea-change in Washington's policy. American sources now sound as keen as the Russians to work together, an attitude which had been out of fashion since the early years of the Carter administration.

The turning point for the State Department was the Afghanistan agreement. Gorbachev's willingness to accept a deal on terms previously unthinkable proved to Washington that his "new thinking" meant real realism. It opened up a long-term hope for Washington of turning a thankless role as global policeman into a shared responsibility.

So there is much for both superpowers to gain from co-operation. And for the wider world the implications are even

greater. It has been clear for years that no lasting settlement would be possible while the Russians were left out.

That does not mean that a US-Soviet agreement is an end in itself. There are many other problems to be settled before serious work can begin. Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, will not accept Soviet involvement until Moscow resumes diplomatic relations. He will probably also insist that Moscow allows more Soviet Jews to emigrate, though he has been less specific in making that a pre-condition.

If these first hurdles can be cleared, the prospects should be less discouraging than recent Middle East headlines may have suggested. When Shultz sounded out Shamir last October on a joint US-Soviet initiative, Shamir's answer - admittedly reluctant and hedged with qualification - was a surprising "yes".

Shamir knows he can sell the idea to his right wing provided it is clearly linked to a resumption of relations. It has the advantage that a superpower umbrella for direct Arab-Israeli talks would not be the international conference that he abhors. His fear has been that Israel might be bullied on to an international stage to be outvoted.

He wants the US-Soviet role to "constitute" a summit, or "event" as he prefers to call it, to which Gorbachev and Reagan (or his successor) would invite Israeli and Arab leaders.

So far so good, but what then? A superpower accord does not of itself solve the Palestinian question. The first of many hurdles would be to put together a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to talk to Israel, which looks as hopeless as ever. Washington, Shamir and Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister and leader of the Labour coalition

partner, are adamant that the Palestine Liberation Organization should be excluded, and neither the American nor Israeli elections will change that.

Mikhail Gorbachev is trying to be helpful in this respect. Last Tuesday he used a visit by Yasser Arafat to Moscow to signal a key change in Soviet policy. He made it clear that while he supports Palestinian rights to self-determination, he also recognizes Israel's right to exist. The clear hint to Arafat was that he should do the same.

But the chances that the PLO will change its policies under Soviet pressure are remote. As one Israeli official said, if Arafat had been willing to shift in that direction he would have joined the Camp David peace process and could by now be at least the leader of an autonomous West Bank/Gaza region and possibly a senior figure in a joint Palestinian-Jordanian state.

Arafat has been the only main player in the Middle East entirely to reject Shultz's latest peace plan. The assassination of Abu Jihad, his deputy, can only further harden his line.

So while a US-Soviet agreement to co-operate will be a useful and welcome beginning, the end is not yet in sight.

Andrew McEwen on the prospects of Middle East co-operation

Moscow: partner in peace

Enoch Powell

Fears that have not changed

Twenty years ago tomorrow Enoch Powell made his 'Rivers of blood' speech on Commonwealth immigration that cast him into the political wilderness. Looking back, he sees no reason to amend one word

After the Second World War the immigration of British subjects, which had been restricted by the British law of nationality, which divided mankind into British subjects (who had unrestricted rights in the United Kingdom) and aliens (who did not) resulted in an inflow of settlers from the former Empire that was already perturbing the Labour government at the end of its term of office in 1951.

By 1954 Churchill's cabinet had ordered the preparation of legislation to restrict rights in the United Kingdom to those connected with it by birth or naturalization - in other words, to provide Britain with a citizenship like that of every other nation. The legislation was not expected to be particularly controversial, but it was to delay its introduction until 1961, by which time a massive inflow, inadequately documented, had taken place.

Nevertheless its entry into effect in July 1962 was hailed with relief, though Treasury dogma, which saw an antidote to inflation in any increase in the labour force, insisted upon continued admission of Commonwealth workers. By 1965, however, both the new Labour government and the Conservative opposition were appalled by the volume of immigration that had evidently taken place already and was continuing. The Labour government tightened admission and Lord Home, for the Conservative Party, called for a policy of assisted repatriation.

After the mid-1960s two things happened. Asians resident in East Africa were flooding into Britain uncontrolled because of an unintended flaw in the wording of the 1962 Act. Political sentiment was now such, however, that amendment of the Act was thought possible only if accompanied by the promise of timetabled but not otherwise

restricted admission. The other event was a growing realization of the future demographic consequences of the size and, even more, the age structure of the New Commonwealth population already present or currently being admitted as wives, children and fiancées.

The statistics beginning to be prepared by local medical officers of health in the affected districts, which showed the proportion of births to New Commonwealth mothers, foreshadowed inexorably the make-up of the future population. It pointed (as a former Home Secretary told the House of Lords in 1967) to cities that would be one-third or more coloured. The transformation which I had been witnessing already in the West Midlands was but a fraction of what lay ahead. No doubt it would be erroneously attributed by the public to on-going "immigration", but the fear and resentment already created would be multiplied.

At this juncture, in April 1968, the Labour government placed before the Commons a Bill which for the first time made actions otherwise lawful unlawful if the parties to them were of different "race". It seemed to me, as I later said, "to risk throwing a match on to gunpowder". At all events, the Conservative shadow cabinet, of which I was a member, decided to issue a three-line whip to vote against the second reading, albeit on a reasoned amendment to the effect that the Bill would do more harm than good.

When I left London for the Easter recess I felt a load had been lifted from me. My colleagues had understood the situation and the dangers, and they were going to make a stand.



There was to be a meeting of the Conservative Political Centre in Birmingham before the end of the recess, and I resolved to use that opportunity to justify and explain the Opposition's intention from the point of view of a West Midlands MP. The speech which I produced was issued by the party's area office, as was normal for such area events.

Re-read after twenty years, I am struck by its sobriety. The latest official figures (*The Times*, March 30, 1988) estimate the "ethnic minorities" at almost 5 per cent of the population of Great Britain, increasing, at the present rate, to 7 per cent by the year 2000, though the rate of increase "is likely to soar in the 1990s". It was therefore hardly a

wild conjecture in 1968 that at the end of the century the figure on the trends then current "must be in the region of approximately one tenth of the population".

Still less was I guilty of exaggeration when, speaking at Eastbourne in November 1968, I said that "on assumptions deliberately pitched low the minimum figure works out at a little over 6 per cent of the projected population of the UK as a whole". As Quentin Hogg (as he then was) remarked to a colleague soon after, "Enoch's figures are right; we know that".

Neither do I think that the picture which I drew of the effect on the indigenous population, especially the elderly, of the impact of ethnic immigration thitherto in a town such as Wolverhampton would seriously be regarded now as overdrawn. Details of that picture, which were challenged and became notorious, were confirmed by the evidence in official reports.

I had been careful in my speech, as behaved a member of the Shadow Cabinet, not to go beyond stated party policy in any measures that I advocated. Indeed, in a speech at Walsall the following January Edward Heath, the party leader, reconfirmed without qualification that assisted repatriation was official policy. He admitted as much when he expressly designated the "tone" and not the content of my speech as incompatible with my remaining on the Opposition front bench.

I had supposed that my colleagues saw what I saw and feared what I feared and that their decision on the Bill denoted that they were prepared to say so. I was wrong. They meant to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. In fact they gave up the idea of hunting altogether, and it was only a dissident minority of Opposition members who insisted on going into the lobby against the Bill.

Meanwhile, the words of my speech were scarcely out of my mouth before a tidal wave of public approbation broke over my head. At last someone in a public position had described what millions were seeing and voiced the fear that millions were feeling. That he was victimized for his pains set the seal

upon it; and the dockers of East London and the porters of Smithfield said so.

My own life was turned upside down. Though thitherto I had been able to command public audiences larger than the party leaders, I could now look to have no place either in a Heath cabinet - he might not have wanted that anyhow - or in any future administration. That establishment which may not be denied had cast its black ball.

How much more I would be no more than an outside force in politics. At least, if I had no career ahead, I would be trammelled only by my own judgement and not by any consideration of personal consequences. I complain neither of the position that I had acquired nor of the price I had paid for it. My speech and its reverberations made it no harder for governments and political parties to face facts they were not going to face anyhow. The reason was that with which I had prefaced my speech:

The supreme function of citizenship is to provide against preventable evils. In seeking to do so, it encounters obstacles which are deeply rooted in human nature. One is that by the very order of things evils are not demonstrable until they have occurred; at each stage in their onset there is room for doubt and for dispute whether they be real or imaginary. By the same token, they attract little attention in comparison with current troubles which are both indisputable and pressing. Hence the besetting temptation of all politicians to concern itself with the immediate present at the expense of the future.

That future will be judge between me and those who held their peace. In the years ahead we are going to learn whether in a society where the great decisions locally and nationally are made by the democratic counting of heads there will be peace and good government while it contains so large and so swiftly growing an element that is so visibly and self-consciously distinct from the rest. I have not altered my judgement that there will not.

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Commentary • BEN PIMLOTT

Killing the goose

When an angry group of dons petitions the House of Lords this morning about the "academic freedom" clauses of Mr Baker's Education Bill (currently receiving its second reading), they may not cause much stir.

"Another coffin nail for the civilized society" doesn't make much of a headline, and if there is one profession from which this government has absolutely nothing to fear politically it is, alas, my own. Still, it would be as well if their lordships considered the likely effects of the clauses.

Two aspects are strange. One is the proposed Universities Funding Council. The other concerns academic tenure. Both touch on the mysterious question of what universities and polys are actually for.

In the Middle Ages institutions of higher learning were concerned with the theological training of novice priests. In modern totalitarian societies they are intended to produce ideologically correct servants of the state. Post-Baker, there will be more than a touch of both. For the implication of the Bill is that British higher education should increasingly be geared to the requirements of the Big Idea.

Thus, the new funding council will be instructed to relate higher education to the aims of the government of the day. In effect, this ministerial agency will be able to determine not only what kind of research should be encouraged but also what subjects should be taught, what the contents of those subjects should be, even the number of staff and students permitted.

Once upon a time there was the romantic notion that higher

education was a means of widening intellectual horizons, and providing an environment in which the imagination of teachers and taught was permitted free reign. Now much of that is to be regarded as indulgence. In the chilling Orwellian phraseology of Mr Baker's DES, the emphasis will be on meeting "the demands for qualified manpower, stimulated in part by the success of the Government's own economic and social policies".

In the story of the golden goose, the ambitious owner concluded that he could increase the output of his remarkable bird by surgical intervention. He would have done better to leave left well alone, and so would the present government. Arithmetical sums may point to short-term advantages in particular kinds of technical training or for desired industrial projects. But the long-term impoverishment caused by the destruction of autonomy is likely to be incalculable and permanent. As Sir George Porter pointed out in his recent Dimbleby Lecture, to starve research of funds on the grounds that it is useless - or seems to be to those in authority - is a desperately false economy.

On academic tenure, the Bill's provisions are even more whimsical. There is an excellent argument for abolishing tenure in its present form and substituting five or ten-yearly reviews - inviting academics to account for themselves in terms of teaching, research, and administration. (A sound principle that might be extended to include, say, higher civil servants and Conservative MPs in safe seats). Instead, however, government

pressure is likely to be on now unfashionable disciplines (what does medieval Sanskrit contribute to GNP?) and on victimizing high achievers.

Well-entrenched idlers, of whom academic life (like Parliament and the Civil Service) has its share, will be immune. The sufferers will be the recipients of new contracts; those up for promotion, or applying for transfer, as well as new appointees (because of the scarcity of jobs) these days have to be exceptionally brilliant.

A recent case illustrates the likely effect. Offered the prestigious chair of public administration at the LSE, Professor Christopher Hood of Sydney University accepted - until he heard about the Bill. Then his understandable reaction was to say "Thank you, but no thanks". In future, faced with the threat of the possible closure or contraction of whole departments on "economic" grounds, others might not even apply.

What is happening to British universities and polytechnics has, of course, much in common with the fate of other organizations and bodies in the public sector. There is, undoubtedly, a strong argument for increasing freedom from central interference in many spheres. What the Lords should consider in the present debate, however, is whether in the case of higher education it is right to consider freedom as a luxurious extra or a functional necessity.

The author is Professor of Politics and Contemporary History at Birkbeck College, London University.

SCIENCE REPORT

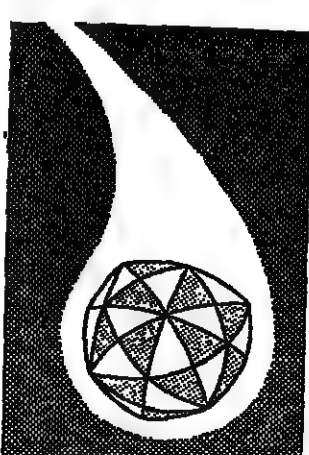
Crystal gazing

The tiny diamond crystals unexpectedly found in meteorites in the past few years were probably formed by the high-speed impact of carbon grains on one another, according to a group of scientists at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory and at NASA's Ames Research Centre, both in California.

Writing in this week's *Nature*, the group says its conclusion is based on detailed examination of very small diamond crystals taken from the Allende meteorite, which fell across the US border in Mexico in 1968, and in which meteoritic diamonds were first discovered. For 20 years, this has been the most commonly studied example of the class of meteorites containing substantial amounts of carbon and known as carbonaceous chondrites.

The issue is important because of suggestions, notably by Professor Edward Anders and his colleagues at Chicago University, that micrometeorites from meteorites may hold clues to the nature of earlier generations of stars.

There is also a dilemma to resolve. In the earth's crust, diamonds are formed only at great depths in hot igneous rocks, implying that the pressure at which they are formed is very great. This is the principle on which most synthetic diamonds are now made; it agrees with the fact that diamonds have been known since the 19th century, that a diamond at ordinary



Richard Lindblom

pressure is, strictly speaking, unstable relative to other forms of pure carbon.

Meteorites are supposed to be formed in interstellar space from gas and dust. But the pressure in interstellar space is far lower than that at which diamonds are formed in the earth's crust.

Only in the past few years, with the discovery that it is possible to coat metal surfaces at low pressure with thin films of diamond (thus reducing their surface friction and increasing their resistance to abrasion), has there seemed a way out of the dilemma.

Some astrophysicists have suggested that meteoritic diamonds may originally have grown by the addition of carbon atoms one at a time to a small cluster of carbon atoms, just as some semiconductor

structures are now made by adding single atoms to a growing surface.

The new observations weigh against this explanation, although the authors say their work does not entirely exclude low-pressure diamonds. Some crystals they extracted from the Allende meteorite were only a fraction of a millionth of a millimetre in size, implying that they consist of only a few hundred carbon atoms.

But the researchers have also found that a large proportion, perhaps a quarter, of their carbonaceous material consists of regions in which carbon atoms are not arranged in any particular pattern, and that some of these disordered regions apparently weld well-formed crystals together.

This observation, the authors say, is most simply explained by the collision of pairs of diamond crystals moving at six miles or so per second. This, they say, is most likely to happen in the wake of an outbursting star called a supernova, such as that observed just over a year ago in the southern skies.

But hopes of learning from meteoritic diamonds something of earlier generations of stars would be higher if microdiamonds were formed in a low-pressure process which would less drastically disturb material gathered from earlier stellar debris.

JOHN MADDOX

The Times News Service, 1988

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1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE BUDD AFFAIR

In 1984, Miss Zola Budd renounced her South African citizenship, returned her South African passport, and became a British citizen. Was this a cynical acquisition by her of a "flag of convenience"? That is the phrase which has been constantly used by her detractors in the present sorry controversy about what she did or did not do at a relatively obscure athletic event in the South African town of Brackpan on March 14, 1988.

She was 17 in 1984. When someone is 17, and an internationally renowned athlete — or an internationally renowned anything — that person can be expected to go to virtually any lengths to practise, at the highest level, their sport or their art. Such adolescents tend to think the world revolves around them. Of course, in 1984, she was likely to be treating Britain as a flag of convenience.

She would probably have done almost anything to carry on running in world class athletics. She would have had no idea of the political ramifications of what she was doing — of the opportunities it would give to posturing by adults years afterwards. Seventeen-year-olds tend not to. What black African sports officials — and extreme anti-apartheid campaigners — should understand is that not all 17-year-olds are political obsessives, and it would be bad for the world if they were.

But now she is 21. There is no indication that she takes her British citizenship lightly. She prefers here to there. She now has a degree of allegiance to Britain which goes beyond mere acquisition of a travel document acceptable to Black Africa. Britain therefore has some obligation to her. But how much? Enough to jeopardize British participation in the Olympics? That is at the heart of the controversy.

Her detractors' second main charge is that she goes to South Africa too often for someone who has renounced the place. But she has a family there. She has only renounced her South African citizenship, not her South African family. Again, the renunciation of family is a characteristic of the political obsessive — not of the normal person which Miss Budd is.

Those who want her thrown out of international athletics argue that, though she makes out she is now British, she still takes part in South African sports events. They bring in evidence the now-famous race at Brackpan.

Miss Budd has, however, sworn an affidavit. The number of recent visits to South Africa which she mentions in it do not seem excessive — one for her 21st birthday, another to take an examination to qualify for further education in Britain, another for Christmas, and so on. She denies being involved in any athletic event or function in South Africa other than as a spectator.

Apparently at Brackpan, she wanted to watch a friend race. She did some training in the area: "during this training I may have run across part of the course but in no way whatsoever did I take part in any race or demonstration run whilst I was at the location."

Is she lying? If so, how can that be proved, in the absence of any overwhelming evidence from those who want to discipline her? It is her

word against her enemies — people, moreover, who give a powerful impression of wanting to get their own back for her being white, South African, and — by becoming a British citizen — still eligible to run in the Olympics.

True, a photograph appeared in a South African newspaper of her running in the Brackpan race. But all sides seem now to agree that it was of someone else — a girl who looked like her. Her enemies point to the Brackpan race as having been sponsored by an athletic shoe firm which has sponsored her — a piece of evidence against her, but a small one.

The British athletic authorities must now make up their minds whether any of this is enough to end her Olympic career. Let us hope that, before they do so, they do their best to find out what really did happen at Brackpan. If she really did far more than she says she did, then — under international agreements penalizing South Africa to which Britain is a signatory — she should not go to the Olympics. Having signed such agreements, British athletics should abide by them.

Which raises the bigger question. Should Britain have signed them? With every year that passes, it becomes clearer that neither Britain, nor any other democracy, should have done so. To single out South Africa for special opprobrium was to treat apartheid as a unique evil. There are plenty of people prepared to do so, for idealistic reasons as well as for reasons which are far more cynical than anything dreamt of by the 17-year-old Miss Budd.

Apartheid is but one of many evils practised by states across the globe. What is uniquely evil about it? Is it the racialism? If states were boycotted and shunned for practising racialism, international contacts would be restricted indeed. Account would have to be taken of the racialism of Malays against Chinese, Sinhalese against Tamils, Sudanese Muslims against Sudanese blacks, blacks in Africa against Asians in Africa, and countless African tribes which — disguised as nation states — use the levers of office against another.

Apartheid is singled out because it is the racialism of white against black and brown. But when it was thus singled out, the West — including the Western signatories of anti-South African sports agreements — seemed not to know that the post-colonial world is a world of different racialisms, of which South Africa's is but one. There is no excuse for that ignorance.

It is too late for the coming Olympics. But the Western democracies must sooner or later refuse to accede to the selective version of evil. Black African states — and those who seek favour with them — would soon enough accept the new reality. The Olympics would revert to what they were in the past.

In 1976, Black African states boycotted the Montreal Olympics because one of the competitors, New Zealand, had sent a rugby team to South Africa. In 1980, those states were back for the Moscow Olympics which were boycotted by the United States because of the hosts' recent invasion of Afghanistan. This ones more shows the selectivity, but it also shows that boycotters come back.

DEATH OF A TERRORIST

The killing in Tunis at the weekend of Mr Khalil Wazir, better known as Abu Jihad, has deprived the Palestine Liberation Organization of its military commander. The PLO leader, Mr Yasser Arafat, has been deprived of a valued political ally, and Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza of a coordinator of operations.

Wazir's death has been widely attributed, in the face of silence from Jerusalem, to the Israeli secret intelligence organization, Mossad. The precision with which the murder was carried out is another.

This is not the only theory to have been advanced. Some have argued that Abu Jihad fell victim to internal Arab disputes — in particular, to the quarrel between the PLO and Syria. An Israeli official has claimed that his murder reflected internal Palestinian rivalries. But the myth already holds Mossad responsible. Whatever the facts of the case, it is Israel that stands to gain most from his departure.

Such a proposition may not, at present, be self-evident. As the violence in the West Bank and Gaza mounts in response to the killing and many in the West (including people not generally well-disposed towards the Arab cause) mourn the loss of a "moderate" on the Palestinian political spectrum, the murder of Abu Jihad could well be viewed as damaging to Israel.

The PLO military commander has now been added to the canon of Palestinian martyrs and his may well carry more inspirational force in death than the man himself did in life. The assumed (though not proved) involvement of Mossad could tarnish Israel's reputation as a State which prefers its actions to be governed by law. If the time ever comes when Israeli and Palestinian states live side by side, Abu Jihad is believed to have been one of the few PLO leaders who might have been able to constrain the extremists.

The killing of Abu Jihad could, therefore, be regarded as having destroyed many of the ingredients believed essential to any Middle East settlement: a "moderate" Palestinian leadership prepared to acknowledge Israel's

right to exist, a Palestinian leadership sufficiently united to minimize the danger of continued terrorism. Such an assessment is too pessimistic.

The murder of Abu Jihad is unlikely, by itself, to sabotage the long-term prospects for peace in the region. Here, Israel and the PLO are not the only players; the Arab states and the two superpowers are all interested and increasingly involved parties. Even in the short term, it may not be so contrary to Israel's interests as friends of Israel fear and its enemies hope.

Abu Jihad was widely regarded as having directed the unrest which has now become known as the "Palestinian uprising" in the Israeli occupied territories. He was credited with coordinating and continuing what were initially spontaneous and sporadic disturbances. His removal leaves the leaders of the "uprising" without a commander-in-chief and so weaker. Local leaders may now claim exclusive credit for the protests, so depriving the PLO leadership of the only currently active Palestinian campaign.

Abu Jihad's murder will not necessarily tarnish Israel's reputation abroad. Similar assassinations in the past have only confirmed the friends and enemies of Israel in their initial views — either that the PLO is a terrorist organization whose leaders live and deserve to die by the sword, or that the State of Israel should not be allowed to exist. Moreover, any damage done to Israel's reputation will be minimized if and when the PLO stages one of its favoured acts of spectacular vengeance.

Despite recent moves by Mr Yasser Arafat and other PLO leaders to cast themselves as moderates, that description has to be assessed on the PLO scale — which has long been a scale of terror. Mr Arafat has still not been able to unite the PLO behind a formal acknowledgement of Israel's right to exist. If he was unable to take that step, which is essential to any Middle East settlement, during the lifetime of the "moderate" Abu Jihad, it is unlikely that his death will make any difference.

Seeking asylum

From Dr M. Louis Piroquet
Sir, In the House of Lords' debate on the Immigration Bill (Parliament, April 13) Earl Ferrers claimed, when speaking for the Government, that to allow asylum-seekers "to stay in [Britain] while they appealed [against a deportation order] could open the way to widespread abuse and undermine the asylum determination procedures."

As was pointed out in your columns by Richard Pender, a reader in law at Kings' College, London, just a year ago (March 4, 1987), a visitor to Britain who wishes to extend his stay may take his case on appeal all the way up to the House of Lords. Yet his life is in no danger. The asylum-seeker, who is denied such a right of appeal, claims that his life and liberty may be threatened if he is removed from the country.

For a right of appeal which can only be exercised from abroad is no right of appeal at all so far as an asylum-seeker is concerned. If he is persecuted on return to his country, he will be unable to appeal. If he is not persecuted, and is therefore able to appeal, his appeal must fail.

Future of pupils in London

From Mr Thomas Gretton
Sir, The ballot of parents of children in Ilea schools (report, April 4, later editions) showed incontrovertibly that those most directly affected have no confidence in the Government's current plans for the future of the education service in the capital. The turnout was 55 per cent, and parents voted by 19 to 1 to reject Mr Baker's plans.

Mr Baker's Cabinet colleagues know that not a few of the inner-London boroughs are on the point of administrative collapse as they try to cope with mounting problems with diminishing resources.

The Government has no mandate for the abolition of the Ilea, indeed its manifesto contains an implicit pledge to retain it in some form. There is no educational case to be made for the abolition of the Ilea, and a host of compelling reasons to retain it and to make sure it does better. Now parents, Mr Baker's own touchstone of good sense, have rejected his plans.

Yours faithfully,
TOM GRETTON (Chairman,
London Parents' Ballot
Campaign),
33 Huddlesford Road, N7,
April 14.

From Mr Richard Tracey, MP for
Surrey (Conservative)
Sir, The ballot on parents' attitudes to the proposed abolition of the Inner London Education Authority recorded 137,000 votes in favour of retaining the unitary structure. Of course, as each vote attached to a child in an Ilea school, many of these votes will have been cast by the same hand in the case of parents with more than one child.

Employment statistics also show that Ilea employs 90,000 people in full or part-time jobs. Could the education authority now tell us how many parents of children in its schools are also Ilea employees?
Yours faithfully,
RICHARD TRACEY,
House of Commons,
April 15.

Equality in sport

From the Chairman of Freedom in Sport
Sir, Surely the time has now come to pose the one vital question concerning the future well-being of international sport which no one has yet dared to put before a genuine sporting and general public.

We, Freedom in Sport, challenge publicly Sam Ramsamy, Sony Ramphai and all other anti-sports apartheid activists to justify the exclusion of black South African sports persons from international sport.

These sportsmen and women, because they are black and from South Africa, are being denied their true sporting heritage because of the blatant political trespassing upon the hallowed ground of sport by interests alien to sport.

Thus, where are South Africa's Learys, Constantines, Peles, Ous, Thompsons, Whitbreads and Sandersons now? The vast number of untapped black sporting talents, in addition to the Zola Budds, are the unknown and helpless victims of those with no concern for real sport.

We in Freedom in Sport look at South African sport as a whole in our campaign for fair play for both blacks and whites throughout the sporting world.

A "whitelists" would seem to be more appropriate for those who compete and play in South Africa; for they are giving something for the future, as distinct from those who wish to apply commercial-style sanctions which only harm those who really need help.

Yours faithfully,
JEFF BUTTERFIELD,
Chairman,
Freedom in Sport,
International Headquarters,
PO Box 42D,
London, W1A 4ZD,
April 17.

Not so elementary

From Mr Gavin Ewart
Sir, In Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes story, "Silver Blaze", very recently televised, Holmes estimates the speed of his train to Exeter — on the old Great Western Railway — as "fifty three and a half miles an hour". He tells Watson that "the telegraph posts upon this line are sixty yards apart, and the calculation is a simple one."

Since a mile contains 1,760 yards, Holmes would have to reckon 29.33 recurring posts to each mile. In effect, after each 29 posts he would have to estimate the extra third (20 yards) while travelling at speed. He would have to do this 29 times for each mile. The calculation could be described as "simple", but it would not be very accurate.

Conan Doyle was a very good cricketer, of county standard — he was very upset when suffragettes set fire to his local cricket pavilion in Sussex, as a bastion of male privilege — and he would be able to estimate the length of a cricket pitch (22 yards) very easily. But of Holmes's cricket, I think, we know almost nothing.
Yours etc,
GAVIN EWART,
57 Kenilworth Court,
Lower Richmond Road, SW15,
April 14.

Chinese attitudes on Tibetans

From the President of the Tibet Society of the UK

Sir, One cannot but admire the persistence of the Chinese Government in urging their version of events in Tibet, as exemplified in the Chinese Ambassador's letter (April 12). They seem to believe that, if a story is repeated often enough and sufficiently loudly, some part of it, however implausible, may stick in our consciousness.

1. His statement that there are only 73,000 Hans in "Tibet", by which he means what the Chinese call their "Tibet Autonomous Region", can arouse only loud laughter among the thousands of intelligent westerners who have visited that area. They have eyes to see. Their reports are collated by the Tibet Society and others, and their evidence is that Lhasa is as to some two thirds a Chinese city, and that other towns in the region are also now mainly Chinese. The Chinese immigrants live in newly-built residential areas, separate from the Tibetans, and leading their own subsidized, favourably-discriminated and more prosperous lives. Elsewhere this is called "apartheid".

2. Visitors also report that such schools and places of industry as they see are occupied mainly by Chinese immigrants. The purpose of the restoration of some monasteries is the initiation of tourists. 3. The majority of Tibetans live in eastern and north-eastern Tibet (outside the "Tibet Autonomous Region"), in the regions known as Kham and Amdo, which the Chinese have re-baptized as Chinese provinces and districts. In some parts of the borderland the authority of the Dalai Lama may sometimes have been tenuous, but that of the Chinese was non-existent, except in parts of Amdo.

Thwarting hijackers

From Mr J. A. Gulland
Sir, Given the ability of any human organization including airline security — to foul things up, Mr Adamczewski's proposal (April 12) to collect all passports — breakfast in London, dinner in New York, baggage in Bangkok, and passports in Peking.

As an occasional passenger on Kuwait Airlines, thank you for an interesting idea, but no!
Yours sincerely,
J. A. GULLAND,
4 Eden Street,
Cambridge,
April 13.

Mistaken identity

From Lord St John of Fawsley
Sir, I always enjoy the perceptive if at times strident sketches of our parliamentary writer Mr Craig Brown — however while comment is free, fact is not.

I may (for all I know) "draw" and even go "boom-boom", but I certainly never said and do not believe that County Hall is one of the most hideous structures in the country. On the contrary I judge it to be a fine piece of architecture both inside and out and made a plea (unreported in *The Times*) for the preservation of its great hall and ceremonial rooms.

My accolade for hideosity is reserved for the Department of the Environment's building in Marsham Street, and that is what I declared in the House of Lords on Monday.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.
ST JOHN OF FAWSLEY,
House of Lords,
April 12.

Victorian values

From Mr Oliver Smedley
Sir, I really must protest at the attempt by Mr William Cash, MP (April 9) to associate the name of John Bright with the run up to 1992. The European Community has nothing whatsoever to do with the free trade principles of Adam Smith, Cobden or Bright and everything to do with the mercantilism of Napoleon's continental system. Bismarck's Zollverein and Hitler's dreams of self-sufficiency, from which the CAP in particular is directly derived.

The EEC is an inward-looking protectionist concept to which John Bright's free trade principles are directly antithetical.
Yours faithfully,
OLIVER SMEDLEY (Vice-President, The Free Trade League),
Garden Cottage,
Duck Street,
Wendens Ambro,
Saffron Walden, Essex,
April 12.

Traffic turmoil

From Mr J. A. J. Berry

Sir, Mr William Greaves, (Spectrum, April 12), makes some interesting comments about the problems of traffic in London but it would be wrong to believe that Autoguide will help in anything other than a modest way.

Unlike many cities there are very few alternative routes within the capital, apart from the obvious alternatives such as a detour south of the river or along the Embankment. North of the river most alternative routes from, say, Westminster to Heathrow, would make great use of residential back streets in order to avoid the main roads which are blocked.

The success of such short cuts lies in the fact that they are known to so few people; they would be quite unsuited to widespread use as residential streets would be unable to accommodate large volumes of extra traffic.

Saving relics of World War 2

From Mr Henry Wills

Sir, With the 50th anniversary of the start of World War 2 next year, I think that we should really start a serious survey and plans to preserve items of architecture of this important phase of history.

In 1970, following a letter in your pages (June 8) in which I pleaded the case of the pillboxes with some success, now is the time for other structures and buildings to be scrutinized.

There is a case for the preservation of an airfield with its buildings and equipment and complete survey of the many temporary Army camps, gun sites, searchlight sites, radar stations, bombing and other ranges. The Ashley Walk range in the New Forest, where the Tallboy bombs were tested, along with the "dam busting" weapons, still has a replica U-boat pen covered by gravel and a number of targets on the ground.

There is a case for the preservation of an airfield with its buildings and equipment and complete survey of the many temporary Army camps, gun sites, searchlight sites, radar stations, bombing and other ranges. The Ashley Walk range in the New Forest, where the Tallboy bombs were tested, along with the "dam busting" weapons, still has a replica U-boat pen covered by gravel and a number of targets on the ground.

Sites of wartime factories could be included, as no doubt many will be redeveloped, but records should be made before memories of those who worked in them fade. This could be the project for local history societies in 1989.

Hampshire County Council already has a "defence of the realm" theme for its tourists and I think that now is the time to place Second World War architecture/archaeology on the same level as the Roman or any other period.
Yours sincerely,
HENRY WILLS,
5 Washburn Close,
Wilton,
Salisbury, Wiltshire,
April 10.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 19 1832

Resurrectionists, or *body snatchers*, gained their livelihood by opening graves and selling recently buried bodies to teachers of anatomy. The words "Buried" and "Burial" are said to derive from William Burke who was executed in 1829 for smothering people before selling their bodies for dissection.

On Friday morning between 6 and 7 o'clock, as the police were coming off duty, James Jeffries, police constable, No. 186, R division, and Luke Kenney, No. 29, of the same division, observed a chase car driven by a man at a very slow pace along the new Green-road, Deptford, and two men walking on each side of the horse. The moment they saw the countenances of the men they identified all three as belonging to a desperate gang of resurrectionists, who have for this long time past been a terror to the inhabitants of Deptford, Greenwich, Camberwell, Peckham, Woolwich, and the whole of the west of Kent. Having procured additional assistance, they proceeded upon the following day, after a most determined resistance, were handcuffed, and conveyed to the station-house of the R division in Orchard-place, Greenwich. The cart upon being examined was found to contain the dead bodies of two men, one aged 84 years, and the other 65. A rumour instantly spread like wild-fire that two men had been buried, and that the three men who perpetrated the murder were in custody. A crowd of several thousand persons soon assembled round the station-house and in the most menacing and outrageous manner called upon the police to let the Burkes out, saying that it would soon be revealed upon them. At one period it was thought that the station-house would be completely pulled down by the infuriated and incensed assemblage. About 11 o'clock the men were led out of the place of their confinement, escorted by about 40 policemen, to be conveyed before the Magistrates at Deptford, when the mob commenced an attack upon them with stones, bricks, and missiles of every description.

Mr. STANFIELD and Mr. YOUNG, the sitting magistrates, after hearing the evidence against the three men, who gave their names Cornelius Fitzgerald, an Irishman of respectable appearance, aged 35, Robert Self, a wooden-legged man and a pensioner, aged 35, and George Betts a shabbily dressed man aged 45, remanded them until Saturday.

On the day appointed the prisoners were taken before the magistrates of Greenwich, Captain SMITH and Colonel FOREMAN, for re-examination, in order that they might avoid being again attacked; but notwithstanding this precaution, they did not escape molestation. The boatswain of the *Justitia* convict-ship lying off Woolwich Dock-yard, identified both bodies as convicts of the vessel to which he belonged, who died on board on Thursday night and were interred at Plumstead. The bodies, according to the direction of the magistrates, were again interred in the same spot, but were soon taken up again. The three men were again remanded.

FASHION by Liz Smith/1

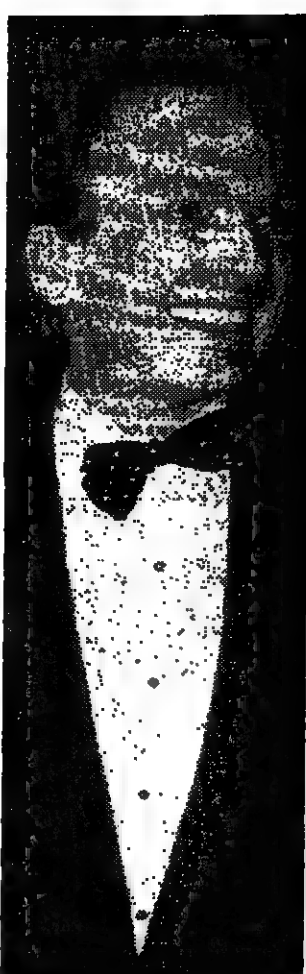
Star-spangled glamour

The man trusted by Cher to position the spangles and sequins on the strategic points of her fearlessly gossamer gowns is Bob Mackie, an American designer famed for his four-star glitz. The sensationally sheer number that she wore last week to pick up her Academy Award for Best Actress was a typical virtuoso performance by the Californian wizard of slink. Using gunmetal and jet beads delicately positioned by Mackie on a single layer of flesh-toned illusion net, the dress took his team of seamstresses on the West Coast three weeks to make.

The designer himself could not be in Hollywood on the night to bask in reflected glory as his most famous customer, as well as studio chief Sherry Lansing and a handful of other celebrities, paraded his unique style. Mackie was back in Manhattan preparing a production of his own to be staged on Seventh Avenue the following day, the ready-to-wear collection that paid homage to his movie-world roots.

Mackie is the maverick of New York's fashion industry, a film costume designer who surprised himself as much as anybody by landing on Seventh Avenue in 1982, precisely the moment when opulence and glamour, curves and fit — talents he had acquired during 20 years in Beverly Hills designing for the stars — suddenly came back into vogue. The fashion world had heard of him already, of course. The twinkling, slashed, beaded and feathered dresses he had been creating for Cher since the early Seventies had merited an exhibition in the Metropolitan Museum's Costume Institute in 1975, and Mackie had picked up three Academy Award nominations for costume design and six Emmy Awards.

Slotting into the schedule of shows that goes to make up New York fashion's Market Week, as they quaintly call it, alongside such established designers as Oscar de la Renta, Beene, Blass, Ralph Lauren and Calvin Klein, Mackie's refreshingly brash Hollywood taste, and his techniques with drape and bias to flatter



How Bob Mackie (above) found fame with a few well-placed beads

across the States, he says, who are eager to pay anything from \$800 (about £420, "though you don't get much for that," he admits) to \$15,000 for a Hollywood-style gown by Bob Mackie. "Few women have bodies as beautiful as Cher's, but I can accommodate a little extra here and there, on the hips or the thighs," he says.

Mackie has been star-struck since the age of five when he started sketching clothes for his favourite pin-ups, Rita Hayworth and Betty Grable. A degree in costume design from California's Chouinard Art Institute led to an apprenticeship to the celebrated costume designer, Edith Head. But it was in the workrooms at Columbia Studios that he watched the legendary Jean Louis spangle the sheaths of skin-toned illusion net worn by Marlene Dietrich, and acquired a talent that stood him in good stead when he started creating the show-stoppers paraded over the years by Diahann Carroll, Mitzi Gaynor, Barbra Streisand or Cher.

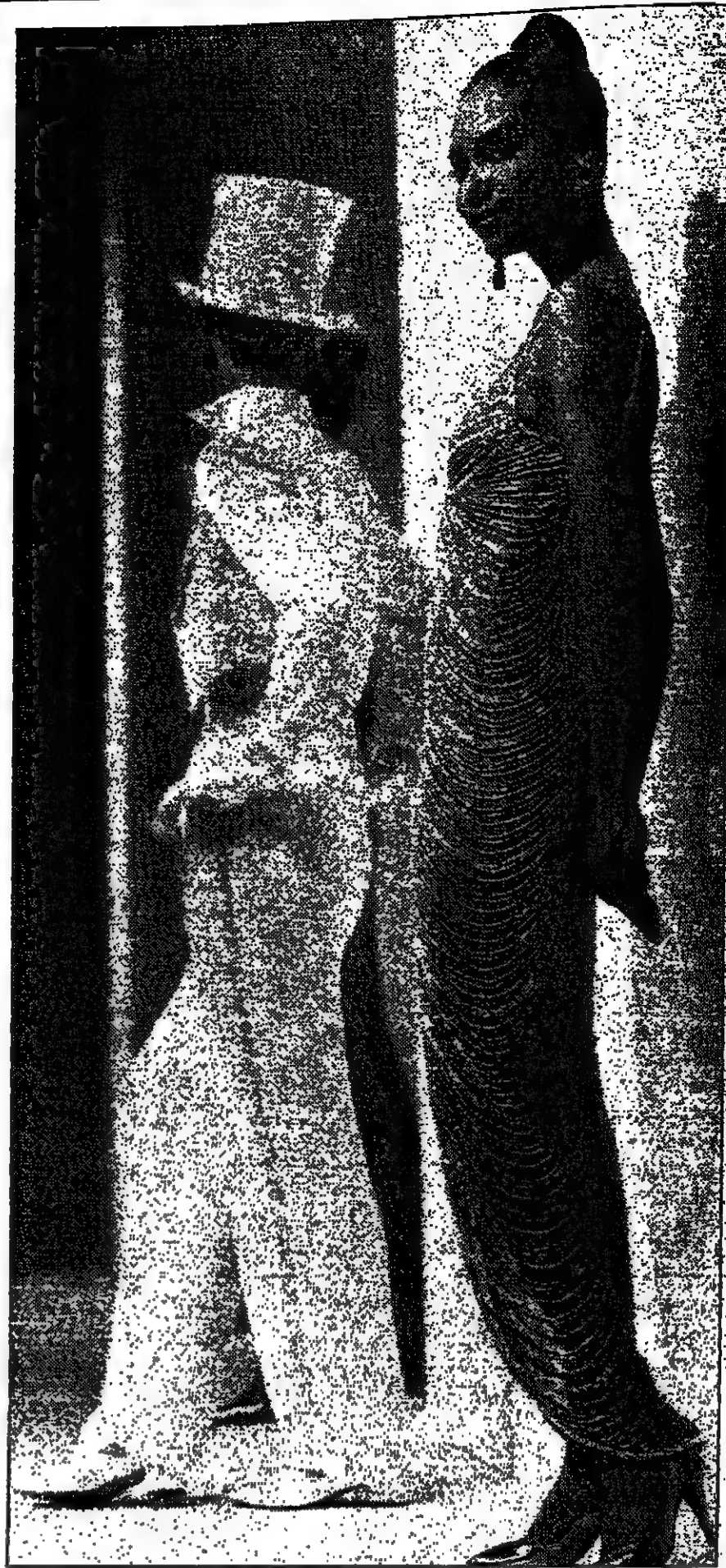
To achieve the illusion of a second skin of twinkling beads, the designer must mark where every bead will be stitched. Flesh-toned muslin is draped on the body, the beading planned to "bridge" the strategic points, leaving the dress sheer right down the sides, say, or at the midriff.

The more fun or outrageous a frock, the more it sells in Palm Beach and Boston as well as Beverly Hills. A brisk trade was being conducted in the Mackie showroom on Seventh Avenue after the show in cyclamen beaded mini-shimmies that were feather-tufted to the tune of \$4,000 each. Mackie's name now appears on fragrance, furs and jewellery as well as a more down-to-earth (well, comparatively) knitwear collection.

Harrods called him up to ask for delivery of a plunge-backed black velvet sheath with off-the-shoulder neckline seen worn by Cher to the Golden Globe Awards, spotted by the Princess of Wales when she was in Australia, it was said. Sadly that was one order he was unable to fulfil — the dress was a special one-off design for the star.



Above: Embroidered ponies with feathered manes on gold silk cowboy jacket worn, with stetson, over bare black wool sheath dress. Right: Diamante straps and trompe-l'oeil swags of bronze and rhinestone beading on a taupe illusion-chiffon silky gown. Photographs by MICHAEL NORCIA



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KAFFE
KNIT



Photographs by DAVID ANTHONY

Geoffrey Beene, eight-times winner of New York fashion's Coty Award, and the recipient of the Council of Fashion Designers of America's top accolade (in 1986 and again in 1987), is having a little trouble. He is trying to collect some of his vintage designs from clients for an exhibition later this year to celebrate his 25 years in business. "They have not been passed on to their heirs. It seems they are still wearing them," he says. *Anna Wintour*, a dedicated Beene customer and editor of *HG*, borrowed a 1960s Beene to wear to the recent CFDA gala at the Metropolitan Museum — it was a dress originally made in triplicate for the *Supremes*. America's most refined and creative designer, who literally invents the fabrics he uses by welding and quilting mis-matched stuffs together, paraded an inspired collection of his works of art that are worn and collected by such arbiters of style as *Palomo Picasso*, *Jacqueline Onassis*, *Glen Clooney* and *Nasty Razzie*.

FREE TRAVEL WITH AUSTIN REED.

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Special pleading

Kenneth Baker, having faced one effective onslaught on his Education Bill in person on last week's *Question Time* (BBC 1) — it led him to make a significant concession about the future of music and special needs in London after the ILEA — faced another last night on *Open Space* (BBC 2) from a possibly unexpected source: the children themselves.

A surly girl from Haverstock School in London challenged him to prove that comprehensive schools lacked quality; and a whole clutch of highly articulate children, from three schools around the country, demonstrated that there was a great deal of good going on in their institutions.

Underlining all the comments were the spectres of rapidly declining resources. The reformers would like to pin the blame for falling standards on the activities of politicized local authorities, but one boy said the only political aspect to the schooling he had received was the grim impression given by ever fewer books and more run-down school facilities.

Others stressed the increasing lack of choice. If music, art, crafts and minority subjects like ancient history, Greek and Latin are regarded as not central by the new national curriculum, they will be the first to go when resources are squeezed. Choice will be limited, these children will be forced into a strait-jacket of subjects that do not interest them and results will be poorer.

The children in *Open Air* criticized this curriculum, the notion of national testing, the system of opting out, as well as the abolition of the ILEA. They were extremely well informed, sensible, and a rather impressive tribute to the present system.

The point about specialization had been emphasized just before by an introduction by a young musician of the Year (BBC 2). Whatever you think about music competition, it reveals the strength of a position to some aspects of the IBC's show, that this year are a platform to the likes of R. Anderson Goehr and Nigel K. Hele to oppose it — the very sum of this one is a starting point for the current health of our school music system.

It will be interesting to see if that survives all. Kenneth Baker's assurances about its future.

William Holmes

Jeremy Kingston reports the opening in Glasgow of the only British production of *The Mahabharata*, Peter Brook's theatrical spectacle

THEATRE

Image overwhelms word

I had hoped for something overwhelming. It would be exhausting, of course, for how could a work lasting, with two intervals, from 1pm to 11 at night, be lacking in its moments of fatigue?

But, with the 100,000 stanzas of the Sanskrit epic to draw from (it is a work 15 times as long as the Bible) and with Peter Brook at the helm; moreover, with high words of recommendation from colleagues present at earlier productions, at Paris and Avignon, in French: would I not be shown a glimpse, however fleeting, of the well-springs of existence?

Just, indeed. As the blind King Dhritrashtra is given his moment of vision and sees Krishna.

Setting aside for a moment what Brook and his company make of the text drawn by Jean-Claude Carrière from the orig-

inal, that text gives us a myth of the dawn years of the world, when hatred grows between two sets of royal cousins, one of which includes Arjuna, the great archer.

Insults and exile follow and finally a great war, occupying all three hours of the final part, when one hero after another on the losing side meets a messy death, most of them stage-managed by the tricks of Krishna, a semi-divine Odysseus, but nastier.

The lives of the early men come across as nasty, brutish and very long. Driven by bloody lust, pausing for demonstrations of manly grief before springing up for further slaughter, always cosseted by mystical counsel from Krishna, the es-

capades we see do not, to my mind, present the immense powerful and radiant conflicts within the self that Brook speaks of in his recently published essays.

It may be that those of a different temper will find, in this Indian *Iliad* with magic, an aid for living.

Turning to the production, there are numerous incidents of theatrical excitement — almost always visual. The setting itself (generously provided by Glasgow District Council) is part of the old Museum of Transport. Its ancient bricks have been sand-blasted; new brick walls project from the wings. The metal-work of the original structure has been painted earthy pink. Close to the colour of the

stamped clay floor.

A narrow stretch of water, bridged by planks, separates this principal acting area from a narrow path-way and a soaring red wall. Up this, actors occasionally clamber and hang from iron rungs like bats.

Brook shows us the athletic elegance of archers drawing bows; fire snakes around heroes in a circle, or streams along the river; with screens or poles or ladders the whirling movements of battle are suggested.

For those who must be reminded that the world is rough, Bhima, the great thing, tears out his cousin's guts and his wife, earlier heard barking, Dalek-like, "Exter-

minate them!" trails her hair over the innards.

The production's colourful surface hides a poorly filled interior that is emphasized — and may be largely caused — by the very multi-national composition of the company Brook sees as one of its virtues. The actors may be lords of language in their own tongue but, for the majority, English is a struggle. Statements of cardinal importance cannot be understood.

So, amid the welter of troublesome accents, Jeffery Kissoon's embittered Karna stands out as the most striking protagonist, because in the nuances of his voice real passion can be sensed. (It would be good to see him as Othello.)

The speaking is an obstacle from start to finish. Much that the eye sees in this lengthy epic may finger in the memory, but as for the sounds and the meanings: no, I think not.

Advance Australia fair and be recognized

GALLERIES

Stories of Australian Art
Commonwealth Institute

Antipodes
ICA

Australia Observed
Boundary

Australia may be a big country, but its bi-centenary has been making a relatively small splash in Britain.

A pity, because it would be interesting to know more about the arts in Australia than we can normally find out from televised seasons of Australian films.

However, at least the beginning of celebrations has not gone wholly unmarked here, even if the only thing vaguely resembling a panoramic view, the Commonwealth Institute's show *Stories of Australian Art* (until May 29), has every appearance of an inspired improvisation.

What the organizers seem to have done is to make a virtue of necessity and simply collect together as many representative examples as they can from British collections of Australian art and art in Australia. This means that we get a curious mixture of the tourist's-eye view and the way that native Australians see themselves and their country.



Essentially Australian? "Sydney Harbour from Cremorne Point c 1909-10" by Sydney Long, from the Commonwealth Institute exhibition

To a certain extent this must correspond closely to the way things happened. Obviously most of the early artists to look at the Australian scene came with pre-formed views of what Nature should be and what made a pretty exotic picture. Also, few if any of them penetrated to the outback, where what would now be thought of as the most characteristic and distinctive Australian landscape is found.

By the first century things had developed, somewhat, with the arrival of a whole school of local landscape painters, and by 1905

Sydney Long is noting approvingly that paintings start to be produced which could be nothing but Australian. The show includes a pleasing example of his own work in that line, and a spectacular Arthur Streeton of "Sydney".

These come what most people would think of as Australian art, the work on local myths (white and aboriginal both have their stories of those) and often bizarre antipodean landscapes by such as Arthur Boyd and Sydney Nolan. Later still there is a curiously fragmented representation of younger painters, aboriginal paint-

ers and miscellaneous figures who do not seem to fit into any pattern, except where they somehow respond to the more extraordinary side of the land about them.

But then, Australia is a big country, and there is no sensible reason to suppose that a painter brought up in Sydney or Melbourne is going closely to resemble one from the subtropical climes of North Australia or the Central Desert. In a way the approach of the ICA makes more sense, by trying to make less. For the opening of its Antipodes season the Institute has put on three quite

distinct shows (until May 22), devoted to the painter and conceptual artist Ian Telford; the aboriginal artist Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri (both of whom also feature at the Commonwealth Institute); and a group of four artists whose work is, one way or another, based on photography.

Australians always stress the "global" nature of Telford's art, and that is reasonable enough. Probably in Australia one would notice, mostly, his un-Australian qualities: the tributes to de Chirico (in "Antipodes Manifesto", of all things), the "Kinsmen" in certain

works with Richard Long and so on. Here, of course, we are disproportionately conscious of the Australian subject-matter, and in one or two works like "A Local Mirage", of what we are coming to recognize as characteristic aboriginal techniques of applying paint in pointillist blobs.

Curiously enough, Tjapaltjarri emerges on this showing as a more "global" artist. Certainly it is interesting to know the precise explanations of his abstract-seeming imagery, but his paintings have a sheer power of design and a subtle harmony of colour which seem to be quite personal to him and certainly obviate the necessity for literal interpretation.

Of the three artists showing in the Boundary Gallery's *Australia Observed* show until May 14, two are Australians living in London, Jamie Boyd (son of Arthur) and Denis Clarke, and the other, John Doubleday, is a Briton who has recently been on a field trip to Australia. The Boyds are mostly Australian landscapes which proclaim themselves as such from across the gallery, not because they are full of kangaroos and strange rock formations, but because the quality of light and space is unmistakable.

Clarke has a more theatrical inclination (it is not surprising to learn that he has designed for the stage) and paints and draws people with a brush. Doubleday seems to have got nothing very recognizably Australian out of his trip, except a general sense of strangeness and magic. But all these have been provoked, and have responded, in their very diverse ways.

John Russell Taylor

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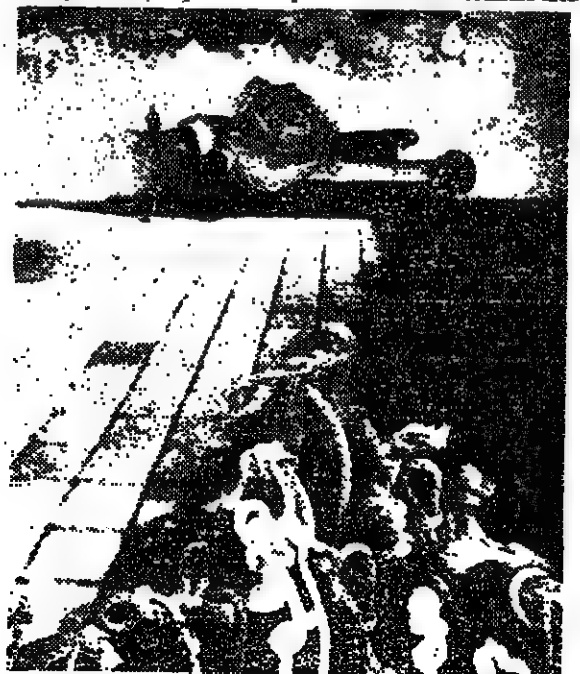
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THE GARRICK THEATRE

Lynne Truss meets Justin Greene, director of a new production of R.C. Sherriff's classic drama of World War One: *Journey's End*

Schooled for conflict

Thumbing through the "Penguin Passnotes" to R.C. Sherriff's First World War play *Journey's End*, you might come across the following sample exam question: *Is the play dated, or would it still appeal to a modern audience? If so, discuss in what ways and for what reason.*

Pity the hapless GCSE student; even seasoned members of the Society of West End Management do not know the answer to that one.

Justin Greene, director of the production of *Journey's End* which opens at the Whitehall Theatre tonight, is used to taking an educated guess at audience appeal. For the last four years he has been running the Nuffield Theatre in Southampton, orchestrating seasons of new plays and revivals, and working a policy he describes as "popularizing rather than populist".

He reckons that the play, at nearly 60 years old, has now outgrown the "dated" label. Now, he says, it is a "period piece". He is presenting it without any cuts or changes: "If the language sounds unfamiliar, it just helps the audience to appreciate that it is about a certain time and a certain place."

Journey's End, in its 60 years, has never ceased to be a well-crafted and extremely moving play, yet somewhere along the line it acquired associations that have militated against a decent West End revival.

People think of it primarily as a melodrama; perhaps because of the acting style of the 1930 James Whale film. As Justin Greene says, the play is above all a naturalistic piece. There is no melodrama, not even any suspense:



Educated guesser: Justin Greene

"At the time of writing, that would have been exceptional in a well-made play. Sherriff tells you what is going to happen in the first five minutes. He tells you that the Big Attack is coming, and that Osborne, the second-in-command, will be killed."

"The emotional impact of the play depends on you knowing that it's all inevitable. Audiences we've shown it to so far have been surprised not by anything that actually happens, but by how deeply moving it is."

The other great myth about the play concerns the leading role. Stanhope (played in this production by Jason Connery) is a 21-year-old commanding officer whose spirit we see staggering under the weight of command. In its first production on the stage, it was played by Laurence Olivier, and it's a performance that is part of theatrical lore.

"People go on about Olivier in

the part," says Greene, "as though he set the standard, but he did in fact only appear in two very short performances."

Greene's previous London work has been with contemporary plays. He directed David Pountney's *Master Class*, for example, and co-directed Peter Nichols's *A Piece of my Mind* last year. His production of Bob Larbey's *A Month of Sundays* (a Nuffield transfer) won a Comedy of the Year Award.

Perhaps the main reason for the play being unfashionable for so long is that it takes no political position on the war. None of the men rails against the system; none of them objects to the obvious fact that public school has perfectly prepared them for death in the dug-outs.

Sherriff saw that continuity, and he saw that it was tragic; he did not see anything wrong in it. Sherriff had, Greene told me, been turned down for a commission because he had not been to one of the foremost public schools; and later, having worked his way up through the ranks, he came to see the sense of that decision.

"Public school boys were a group brought up to command; they were also prepared for an all-male society."

Greene himself, drafted into Winchester at the age of 13, remembers his own first impression of the effect on boys of public school. "What struck me was that 13-year-old boys were walking around like cabinet ministers. You can see how that system — or one very similar — would have prepared people for the war."

Shostakovich outshines Barber

CONCERT

Philharmonia/
Slatkin
Festival Hall

the Largo's slow chordal progress was precisely weighted.

Most impressive, however, was Slatkin's cogent grasp of this symphony's emotional content. He succeeded in clarifying its supposedly "problematic" areas by basing his interpretation on internal evidence found in the score, not the external evidence of "memoirs" and anecdotes.

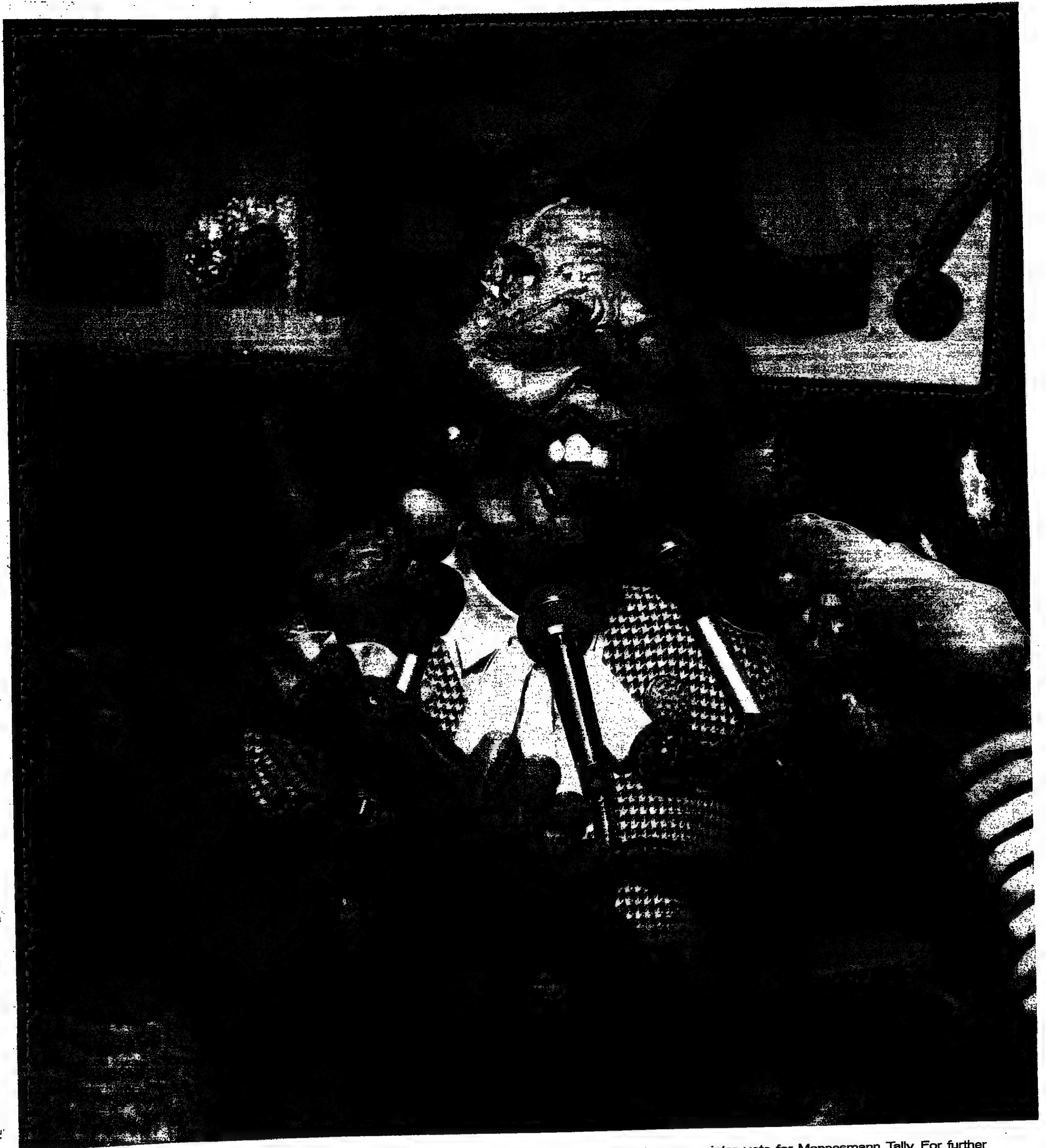
So the Allegretto, for example,

was more an affectionate gazing than a bitterly sarcastic testament, and the finale was neither a "socialist triumph" nor an "agonized writhing", but a dynamic musical argument that ebbed and flowed boldly according to its own compelling logic.

Samuel Barber was too much a gentleman. Just when his music seems to be getting rough, passionate or uncontrolled, the safety of witty discourse and civilized manners is swiftly reasserted. Slatkin found the right degree of veiled intensity for the celebrated Adagio for Strings, but neither he nor the big-toned soloist, Ralph Kirshbaum, could make much of a case for the 1946 Cello Concerto.

Richard Morrison

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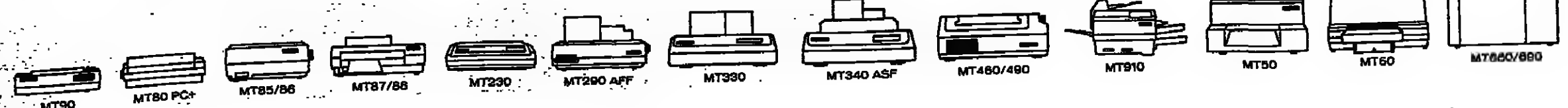
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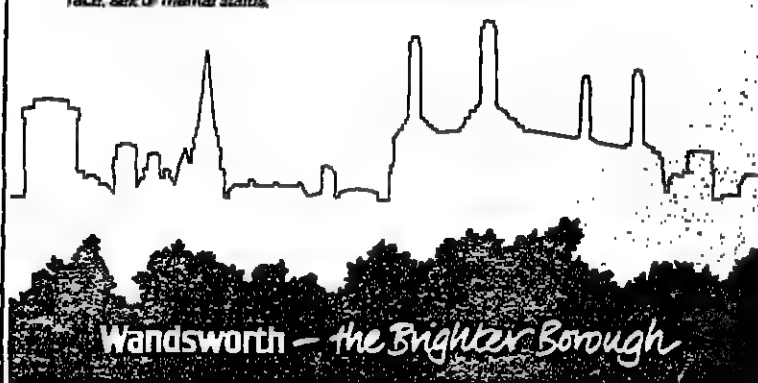
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Information pack and Application Form available from: Housing Personnel Officer, Wandsworth Borough Council, Town Hall, London, SW18 2PU. Telephone: 01-871 6793/4. Closing Date: 6th May 1988.

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Wandsworth - the Brighter Borough

ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

SECRETARY
RCN Scottish Board

Applications for this important post in Scotland are invited by the Council of the Royal College of Nursing. The Scottish Board, whose headquarters are in Edinburgh, is responsible for the work of the College in Scotland. The Secretary is accountable to the General Secretary of the College and works closely with the RCN Scottish Board on a day-to-day basis.

Candidates must be registered nurses with considerable professional experience and a commitment to the role of the College as the professional organisation and trade union for nurses.

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The salary scale, which awaits its annual review, currently stands at £23,176-£28,215 and there are excellent conditions of service.

Further details and an application form may be had from the Principal Personnel Officer, Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1M 0AB. Tel: 01-409 3333 ext. 342. To arrange for an informal discussion call ext. 330.

Closing date for returned forms: Friday 6th May 1988. The RCN is an equal opportunities employer.



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Applications are welcome from individuals regardless of their colour, nationality, ethnic origin, religion, social background, marital status, sex or age. This vacancy is also open to suitably qualified disabled persons.

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Application forms (SAE please), principal responsibilities and further particulars are available from the Director of Economic Development, The Courts, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA3 8NA.

Closing date for applications 9th May 1988.

County Secretary's Department

Assistant Solicitor

Salary Range: £12,804-£14,205

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Applicants must be Solicitors, preferably with some Local Government or advocacy experience since qualification. Newly qualified persons will be considered.

The post will involve a substantial amount of child care work, but will include other advocacy, and legal work of a general nature in the Department's Personal Services Section.

The offices of the Department are in Carlisle, which is well situated for the Lake District National Park, the Cumbrian Coast and the Scottish Border Country.

Relocation allowance available in appropriate cases.

If you would like an informal discussion about the post please telephone Mr B. Walker, (0228) 23456, Ext 2238 or Mr J.F. Brown (Ext 2240).

Further particulars and application forms from the County Secretary and Solicitor, The Courts, Carlisle, CA3 8NA. Tel: (0228) 23456, Ext 2212.

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Posts open to both men and women.

Cumbria

'St. James's No Room Cafe Project'

requires a

SENIOR PROJECT YOUTH WORKER

Following a new Cafe service for homeless young people in the West End of London, the Cafe will be located in the St. James's Youth Centre, which provides a range of daytime, evening and weekend services for young people with difficulties in Central London. The Cafe will work with the St. James's Project which will be based in the same building.

The Senior Worker will be on a two year contract, to set up the operation with a cafe manager. S/he will be responsible for youth work staff and volunteers and will work to the Chairman of the Cafe management committee and be responsible through him to the committee.

Duties will include the establishment of policy, recruitment and supervision of staff, fund raising, liaison with other projects and work with Cafe users.

It is anticipated that the successful candidate will be London-based or will have experience in working with young people in London.

St. James's No Room Cafe Project is committed to and is working towards becoming an equal opportunities employer. Salary grade will be £12,804 plus £1,500 London Weighting. NJC conditions of service.

Closing date for applications is 6th June, interviews will be held in June.

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Berkington Lane, Chiswick, LONDON W4 2TJ
Tel: 01-994 4404

MUSEUM
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The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews Preservation Trust which has recently been established by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Fife, is seeking a MUSEUM DIRECTOR to manage a major new golf museum development in St. Andrews.

The new museum is due to be completed early 1990. The Director will initially work with the project architect and project designer to ensure the successful completion of the museum building and its facilities, and thereafter manage the museum and its services on behalf of the Trust.

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Salary will be negotiable around £17,000 and with other benefits including relocation help.

Please apply in confidence with detailed C.V. to the Chairman, Museum Panel, Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Fife, KY16 5JD.

HORIZONS
A guide to career opportunities

Keeping the mechanics of medicine running smoothly

Most hospitals today rely on medical, mechanical, optical and electronic apparatus for diagnosis and treatment, and the people who maintain this equipment are medical physics technicians. In most hospitals they are also involved in nuclear medicine and radiotherapy.

Technicians also operate scanning and gamma camera equipment which analyse the distribution of radioactivity in patients, and they can be responsible for radioactive materials.

The jobs which medical physics technicians carry out in the Bloomsbury health district were described to me by Roland Blackwell, deputy chief physicist, who showed me round the Department of Medical Physics and Bioengineering at University College Hospital.

Where equipment servicing was concerned, he told me, they operated planned preventive maintenance, testing machines such as defibrillators on a regular basis. "If someone has a heart attack, these must be functioning perfectly."

In an effort to save nurses from having to ring up to report the failure of a piece of equipment, the technicians conducted a weekly training programme for those who used the machines, showing them exactly how to go through the various operating procedures, such as changing the paper on a chart recorder. Unnecessary calls had been cut down from 70 to 10 per cent.

Service records indicated when a piece of equipment was beginning to wear out, and they offered advice on what should replace it. "Science has marched on. Integrated circuit technology has replaced transistors," Mr Blackwell said. When money had been found, they dealt with the manufacturer and checked equipment on arrival for mechanical and electrical safety.

One group of technicians looked after all the physiotherapy equipment, including ultra sound machines and short-wave diathermy, and the X-ray equipment, both for diagnostic purposes and for radiotherapy.

The second, general, group was responsible for anaesthetic equipment, ventilators, infusion pumps, plasma expanders and analysers. These had to be calibrated, and every week certain filters and membranes were changed. Every month the equipment is stripped right down.

This group was also responsible for decontamination. This was not just routine sterilisation. "We have one of the largest Aids wards here," he told me, "and it is our policy that any equipment

which has been in contact with body fluids should be decontaminated before servicing or use by another patient. When it comes out of the process, we check it both functionally and for electrical safety."

The most complex tasks were carried out by the third group - the technicians who mended electronic faults in monitors of all sorts. They did as much as they could, but today so many pieces of equipment contained fully integrated circuits and there was no way in which one could get at them.

In the department there was a fair amount of prototype construction which

out on a computer exactly how much someone had been exposed to a particular type of ray. Computers are indeed used for a multitude of purposes.

In the workshop several different projects were under way. One person was testing materials for incontinence pads. Others were constructing a crash trolley for the team dealing with heart attacks, a uterine insert to be used in the irradiation of cervical cancer, and a miniature sewing machine - for use - I thought - on an endoscope.

"An endoscope," explained Mr Blackwell, "enables the surgeon to see what is going on in the stomach, and while it is doing it is able to sew up a bleeding vessel. This prototype is for animal work, but ultimately we hope to make one for humans."

Technicians in this department came from a variety of sources. Three were graduates (two in physics). Some had City and Guilds qualifications in science laboratory work, or BTEC diplomas, others came from toolmaking.

At one time Mr Blackwell used to obtain technicians from the Ministry of Defence who trained about 20 young people each year up to HNC standards, selected about five or so and let the rest many of whom were first-rate candidates go. But recruitment from this source is no longer viable, since technicians with that degree of training are typically attracted to industry for a salary offered by the NHS.

Today the department recruits school leavers with scientific A-levels or BTEC diplomas in the sciences. They start as junior technicians, train on the job and study for a BTEC National Certificate in medical physics and physiological measurement or whatever field is appropriate to their task.

Blackwell is looking for flexible, adaptable people. "We don't want somebody with a very strong personality, or those on the fringes of the industry, because they will not stay."

Having heard of the low pay compared with industry, I asked: "What makes people stay?" He replied: "The work offers tremendous variety and challenge. You are dealing with pieces of equipment which are doing it for people and it is vital to keep the service going. I do lose some of the youngsters, but there are others who are dedicated and would want to do the work if they weren't paid at all."

Next in the service, radiology technicians and hearing therapists.

Operating increasingly sophisticated technology in health care is a skill which covers a wide treatment band and offers satisfaction, says

Joan Llewelyn Owens

ranged from something like the design of a trolley for a particular purpose, to the construction of a very specialized transducer.

"We have a group specializing in transcutaneous blood analysis. If you take a sample of a newly-born baby's blood, you could be extracting 10 per cent of his blood over the course of a day. Instead of that we seal a sensor to the skin, which heats it until the blood comes to the surface, and the gases in the blood pass through the skin in minute quantities. If you have an extremely sensitive sensor on top, you can analyse what is happening to the blood underneath without drawing any. The technicians here make it in the workshop."

Then there were "round-room" technicians. "In order to kill off a tumour with radiation, you have to aim the beam in the right place, as well as calibrate the machine, so lining up the patient's head to a target is a real art. The easiest way is to make a mould which will go over the patient's head, and screw the mould into the machine. Then you can mark on the mould exactly where the beam should go."

Other technicians, he told me, assisted with the radiation protection service, taking readings, whereas radiography materials were present and monitoring film badges worn by radiographers and other personnel. As we walked round the department, one technician was working

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS
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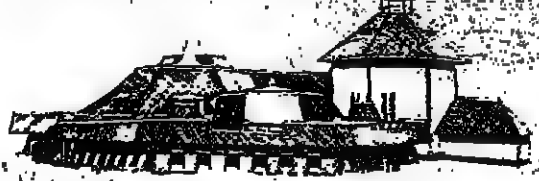
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South Norfolk District Council

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Applications in writing, with names and addresses of two referees, and marked confidential, should be sent by the 6th May, to The Secretary, New South Wales House, 66 Strand, London WC2N 5LZ. Telephone enquiries may be directed to Mr L.W. Cook, Head, Public Relations, on (01) 839 6651.

The Medical College of St. Bartholomew's Hospital

(University of London)

West Smithfield, London EC1A 7BE

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This is a key role and requires a first class administrator. University experience, although desirable, is not essential.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Officer at the above address for telephone 01-606 7404 to whom written application in the form of a full CV with the names and addresses of three referees should be made by the 13th May, 1988.

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Hillingdon is an equal opportunities employer, welcomes applications from candidates irrespective of race, sex, marital status, age, sexual orientation or disability.

Continued on next page

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PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

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**Ogwr
Borough Council**

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Salary Grade: P.O. (3-6) £13,449 to £14,625 per annum

A vacancy has arisen in the legal department for an Assistant Solicitor. The post may suit someone newly qualified, although appropriate experience would be an advantage.

The person appointed will be expected to deal with a wide range of legal work including conveyancing, some advocacy in the County and Magistrates Court and Planning enquiries, as well as attending and advising Committees, although the emphasis for the foreseeable future will be on conveyancing.

The Borough Council offers:

- * Relocation package of up to £2,000
- * Essential User Car Allowance with assisted car purchase or leasing facilities.
- * Temporary housing
- * Pleasant office surroundings

Ogwr Borough Council has a population of 124,000 and covers an area of 110 square miles including an extensive coastline. The new Civic Offices are situated in the expanding town of Bridgend which offers:

- * Easy access to the countryside and an attractive coastline
- * Excellent rail and air links and the M4 motorway in a short distance away
- * Extensive cultural, leisure and educational facilities
- * A range of good quality housing

Application forms, which must be returned to Mrs D Byrne, Borough Personnel Office, by FRIDAY 27th MAY 1988 are obtainable from her at the Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, and Chepstow, Bridgend (NS23) 02411 and 02412 quoting reference no. S.C.

CONVANCING OF MEMBERS EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY WILL DISQUALIFY A CANDIDATE.

OGWR BOROUGH COUNCIL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

ARTICLED CLERK

CE37 Scale 3 to Scale 5

Up to £9,873

To be articulated to the Deputy Chief Executive and Clerk. This is an excellent opportunity for those wishing to gain experience in a wide range of the County Council's legal work. The work will include conveyancing, planning and social service law.

Applicants should be law graduates who have passed the Law Society's Final Examination. Those who are awaiting the result of recent Examination will be considered.

An attractive relocation package worth up to £3,500 will be payable in approved cases and temporary housing may be available.

Further details and application form are available from the County Personnel Officer, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1LX. Tel: Chelmsford (0245) 482211 Ext: 24101.

Closing date: 13 May 1988.



Secretary

to the

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

LONDON BASED • SALARY in excess of £50,000 per annum plus car.

The British Medical Association is the professional association and trade union for the UK medical profession.

The present Secretary, Dr J D J Havard MA MD LL.M., retires in July 1989, and we are now actively seeking his successor.

The Secretary is the senior permanent official of the Association; responsible to the Council, through the Chairman, for the implementation of Association policy. The Secretary is the General Manager of the Association staff, located in 16 offices, and is also a senior spokesman for the BMA in its dealings with various government departments and the media.

Applicants must be registered medical practitioners, preferably with managerial experience. The professional and personal stature to manage this complex and demanding organisation is essential.

An attractive remuneration package, including assistance with relocation expenses, where appropriate, will be offered.

Applications, in the strictest confidence, enclosing a comprehensive CV should be sent to Mr R Firth, Personnel Director, British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP.

(Closing date for applications 6.5.88)



PUBLIC & HEALTH CARE

UNIT GENERAL MANAGER MENTAL HANDICAP UNIT

SALARY: £22,820 per annum

plus performance related pay.

The previous Unit General Manager has been promoted to manage our large Acute Unit. We are, therefore, looking for a new Manager to take on this challenging and developing Unit. We have already made significant steps towards implementing our Mental Handicap strategy and we need a very able and resourceful Manager to continue and to develop the process.

The District General Manager, David Treloar, (telephone Windsor 859221) would welcome informal discussion and the previous Unit General Manager, Nigel Crisp (telephone Slough 34567) would be happy to answer any queries.

The package of information is available from The Director of Personnel, Sue Toy, 81 Frances Road, Windsor, Berks, SL4 3AW, (telephone Windsor 859221).

Application by CV should be sent to the Director of Personnel by the closing date of 6th May 1988.

FINANCIAL

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Applications are invited for the following posts offering the opportunity to work in a progressive Authority in excellent working conditions using an advanced computer based financial information system, in addition to providing the whole range of local government services for the district, the Council is Lead Authority for the Northumbria Police Authority.

Senior Accountant PO3 (£13,449-£14,625)

A qualified accountant (preferably CIPFA) is required to operate as Deputy to a Principal Accountant responsible for the provision of financial management and advice to a group of Council Departments and Committees. The post offers an opportunity for career progression to the successful applicant who can demonstrate an ability to work in a challenging environment with a high degree of initiative.

For an informal discussion, contact Dick Lynch on Tynebridge 4771011, Ext. 5585.

APPLICATION FORMS are available from the Director of Personnel and Management Services, Civic Centre, Regent Street, Newcastle, NE1 1HA, renewable by 25th April 1988.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

We are an EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER and welcome applications from candidates of any age, disability, marital status, race or sex.



FRENCHAY HEALTH AUTHORITY

NEWLY QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT

Health Service - Bristol

Up to £15,300 (plus pending review)

Frenchay Health Authority is seeking an enthusiastic accountant to help develop management information systems for managers from a wide spectrum of professions, including medical and nursing. There are eight supporting staff and you will liaise closely with budget holders and other financial advisers in hospitals and departments.

This is an exciting career opportunity, taking into account current developments within the NHS. For an informal discussion contact Paul Tanner, Deputy Director of Finance on (0272) 701070 Ext. 244.

Job description, information pack and application form are available from District Personnel Officer, District Headquarters, Beckspool Road, Frenchay Common, Bristol BS16 1ND. Tel: (0272) 701070 Ext. 238.

Charlotte Mason College of Education AMBLESIDE, CUMBRIA FINANCE OFFICER

£15,000 to £16,000 per annum

Required from July 1, 1988, or as soon as possible thereafter. A Qualified Accountant to act as the College's Finance Officer. This is a new post at the College. The successful candidate will be required to set up the financial system for the College's change to corporate status on April 1, 1989, and thereafter to assume responsibility for budget preparation and financial control. Candidates should have held a responsible position in the Finance Department of a company or public organisation and should have current experience of computerised accounts, PAYE, VAT and the financial aspects of charities law.

If you are aged 30 to 45, ready to accept responsibility and need a challenge write with CV to: The Senior Administrative Officer, Charlotte Mason College, Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 9BB.

The College is an Equal Opportunities Employer

TECHNICAL

TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT

Chartered Quantity Surveyor

Post T14

Salary to £13,173

Applications are sought from qualified experienced and enthusiastic Quantity Surveyors for a vacancy which exists within the Architects section of the Technical Department.

There is a varied and substantial programme of work, in an attractive part of the country.

Applicants will be required to demonstrate their ability in estimating and preparing contract work. Please send us to give you an interview.

Further details and application form from Personnel and Management Services Officer, 18 Lowther Street, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 4EH. Tel: 0539 32333 ext. 400.

Closing date for applications 27 April 1988.



Prime Opportunities in the Public Sector for Skilled Advocates

ASSISTANT COUNTY SOLICITORS/BARRISTERS EXETER

Litigation

£21,852 - £24,036

An experienced Advocate is sought, to work in conjunction with the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority in licensing, firearms and discipline. The successful candidate will also lead the litigation staff in County Council litigation. Skill as an Advocate is an essential requirement, and first-hand knowledge of police procedures would be a distinct advantage.

Social Services/Committee Work

£20,139 - £22,155

Providing advice to the Social Services Committee, and leading the legal staff on Social Services Work, the successful candidate will be an Advocate with sound experience of social services casework and a willingness to undertake other work as required.

For further information, contact: P. Jenkinson on 0382 273289 or Mrs Cable on 0382 272285.

Application forms from the Chief Executive & County Solicitors Department, Devon County Council, County Hall, Exeter EX2 4QU, or telephone: 0382 272285.

Closing Date: 13th May 1988.



ASSISTANT SOLICITORS (TWO)

£13,173-£15,921

Do you want to work:-

In an interesting and important job?

In attractive modern offices?

With young and friendly staff?

In a cathedral city, close to first-class cricket, surrounded by holiday countryside?

With motorway access to big cities?

Ring me on (0905) 763763 for details and application form.

John Renney, County Hall, Worcester.

Hereford and Worcester County Council



LEGAL SERVICES UNIT ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

POB £13,449 - £14,625

A solicitor is required to join the general legal and litigation section of the Unit. The post provides an excellent opportunity for a newly qualified solicitor to develop a career and take in a wide variety of work.

The postholder will be expected to make a significant contribution to the increasing child care work within the section but there will also be an opportunity for dealing with other litigation work including licensing and environmental health matters. This will include responsibility for advocacy in Magistrates and County Courts and handling cases to be dealt with in the High Court.

The post will also involve an element of highways work together with attendance at various Council Committees.

For more details contact G. Wilson, Principal Assistant Solicitor (0824 367111 Ext. 3148) (Post Ref No. CGL17-1)

Application forms may be obtained by writing to The Chief Personnel Officer, 8 St. John's North, Wakefield, WF1 3DA, or by telephoning Wakefield 367111. Ext. 3199 to be returned, quoting the appropriate reference number(s) by 9 MAY 1988. Wakefield MDC is working towards Equal

THE COLLEGE OF LAW INTERESTED IN LECTURING ?

A vacancy has arisen for a lecturer in law at the Guildford branch of THE COLLEGE OF LAW. There are also vacancies at the Chancery Lane (London) branch of the College; applicants who would prefer to be considered for these should indicate this in their application.

The salary will be within the scale £13,425 - £21,190 p.a. plus an allowance of £1,500 (Guildford) or £2,500 (London), with the entry point depending on age and experience. Normal annual increments will be £900 from February 1989, holidays are generous, and promotion to higher grades with a maximum salary in excess of £36,000 is possible.

Applicants (who must be solicitors) should send full personal, academic and professional details to:

L.R.H. Griffiths, The College of Law, Brabourne Manor, St. Catherine's, Guildford, Surrey GU3 1HA.

PART-TIME LECTURERS

LLB, BSC (Econ), Bar, Law Society, and 'A' Levels

Openings are available for freelance lecturers to join our established team teaching on the above 1988/89 courses.

Opportunities are available for trainee and fully experienced lecturers in a wide variety of subject areas.

Applications in writing with full CV for the above posts to:

Mr I M Sample Piggot, (Ref TMS), The HLT Group of Colleges, 200 Greyhound Road, London W14 9RY

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS

COLLEGE SECRETARY

Applications are invited for this prestigious appointment which falls vacant upon the retirement of the present post-holder.

The College exists to advance the science and practice of pathology. It sets standards for training and examines pathologists in all branches of laboratory medicine. In order to promote the interests of pathology the College has contact with Government Departments, Academic Institutions, sister Medical Royal Colleges and Health Authorities.

The Secretary is the senior permanent administrative officer of the College and is accountable to the President and Council. The applicants should be aware of the importance of maintaining and extending the influence of the College both in the United Kingdom and overseas. The successful applicant will require the managerial skills to deal with a range of administrative and professional staff. Experience and interest in management in health related fields would be an asset. Ability to communicate with and provide leadership for a small staff is essential.

Applicants should be below the age of 50 years. Salary in the range £20-25,000 p.a. Superannuation scheme available.

Applications accompanied by a detailed Curriculum vitae together with the names and addresses of three referees, should reach the Registrar, The Royal College of Pathologists, 2, Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AF by 13th May 1988.

A job description is available on request.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

STEPHENS & SCOWN SWINDON

As part of our continuing programme of expansion we will shortly be opening an office in Swindon. We need an experienced

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY LAWYER

If you have good post-admission experience of commercial property work and would like to be in at the start of this exciting venture with excellent career prospects as well as a salary negotiable circa

£27,500

Then apply in writing to: David Denton, Partnership Administrator, Stephens & Scown, 3 Cross Lane, St Austell, PL25 4AX

CONVEYANCING SOLICITOR

SALISBURY

Up to £28,000

An expanding and prosperous practice based in the heart of Salisbury is seeking to appoint a Solicitor. Define partnership prospects. If you have this kind of commitment and potential, please contact:

ADAM KLOSOK & CO
Chequers Court, 33 Brown Street
Wiltshire SP1 2AS
(0722) 332033

PARTRIDGE & WILSON

BURY ST. EDMUNDS

We are a very well established firm with offices in Bury St. Edmunds and Norwich and require a solicitor for general non-contentious work with an increasing emphasis on company and commercial work.

There will be an appropriate remuneration package with a flexible partnership prospect. Written applications (with CV) to John Fery, Partridge & Wilson, 28 Gildhall Street, BURY ST. EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK IP8 1PT.

CONVEYANCERS

18k - 30k

WEST COUNTRY

We have a number of prestigious firms anxious to employ Solicitors or Legal Executives with extensive experience in Residential or Commercial Conveyancing or both.

Please contact:
MARY MALE
Assord Personnel
OF WIFE
1 Priestlands Lane,
Sherborne, Dorset

YOUNG ENTHUSIASTIC SOLICITOR

who will have up to 3 years experience required to assist at Branch office of an established practice. The work will require an all round basic knowledge in conveyancing, matrimonial law and civil litigation. Salary negotiable up to £21,000 + car. Apply

C Atwood
CULLEN & COMPANY
20 LONDON ROAD
GRAVESEND
ESSEX RM7 5XJ
Tel 0375 378122

LOCUMS: ASA Law is the best service for Locum Solicitors countrywide. 01 404 4741.

LOCUMS: ASA Law is the best service for Locum Solicitors countrywide. 01 404 4741.

Continued on page 37

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share

1419.6 (+3.9)

FT-SE 100

1787.8 (+9.2)

Bargains

26075 (26144)

USM (Datastream)

148.24 (+1.36)

THE POUND

US dollar

1.9040 (+0.0180)

W German mark

3.1559 (+0.0228)

Trade-weighted

78.7 (+0.4)

THE TIMES

STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

Thousands

telephone

Stockwatch

The Times Stockwatch is

proving a big hit with investors.

Thousands rang the

Stockwatch telephone number

yesterday for a demonstration

of the world's most sophisticated

financial phone service on its first day.

Many are taking part in the

Stockwatch competition, in

which readers must identify

the telephone voice of a

personality well-known in the

City or industry.

Stockwatch provides investors

with instant access to

more than 10,000 prices

quoted in the City, and

membership is offered free to

readers of The Times.

Full details, page 29

Abbey cut

Abbey National building

society has cut its mortgage rate

by 0.35 percentage points to 9.75

per cent. This will apply to all

borrowers from May 1. The

cut, which follows reductions

in mortgage rates from most

banks and building societies in

the wake of bank base rate

reductions, brings the Abbey

into line with the competition.

Craig

Dividend up

Morgan Crucible is raising its

final dividend from 5p to 5.4p

a share making 10p (9.2p)

after 1987 pretax profits of

£31.1 million compared with

£24.8 million.

Times, page 26

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York

Dow Jones 8004.14 (-9.78)

Tokyo

Nikkei Average 25871.45 (-222.12)

Hong Kong

Hang Seng 2551.98 (-48.98)

Amsterdam

Amsterdam Gen 248.7 (+1.4)

Sydney: AG 1450.7 (+13.7)

Frankfurt

Commerzbank 1388.8 (+3.5)

Paris: CAC 3022.4 (+5.8)

Zurich: S&K Gen 174

London:

FT-A All-Share 919.91 (+4.8)

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1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

Bank of Ireland pays £194m in quest for US markets

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Bank of Ireland yesterday means that we need to break into new markets to expand. We already have a substantial operation in the British market and wanted more exposure in the US.

With the acquisition of First NH Bank, the state's largest bank, Bank of Ireland will achieve its aim of deriving half of its earnings from overseas and will boost its gross assets to £11 billion (£9.32 billion), compared with less than £10 billion for Allied Irish Banks.

Bank of Ireland expects next month to announce profits for the year to March 31 of £165 million, compared with £150.9 million the previous year.

Mr Richard Keatinge, chief executive, said: "The prospect

of slow growth in Ireland means that we need to break into new markets to expand. We already have a substantial operation in the British market and wanted more exposure in the US.

Although it had been looking for a US bank to buy for about 18 months, the First NH purchase was clinched in little more than four weeks. "When we looked at their development plans, they suited us perfectly," Mr Keatinge said.

Bank of Ireland already has a modest retail and commercial banking operation in New York which it set up 12 years ago.

The acquisition of First NH will be partly funded by a £174 million deeply dis-

counted one for four rights issue by Bank of Ireland.

Its US holding company, specially set up for the purchase, will raise a further \$75 million in preferred stock, with the balance of the purchase price coming from the group's surplus capital.

The rights issue is at 150p and, like the Barclays Bank issue, will not be underwritten.

Bank of Ireland's shares dropped from 225p to 214p yesterday.

First NH, a holding company for 12 banks with 64 offices in the state, produced earnings of \$23.36 million last year on shareholders equity of \$152 million.

It has achieved an average return of 17.5 per cent since 1983, with a compound

growth in assets of 25 per cent a year.

Its main business is commercial lending which contributed 71 per cent of income last year, and there is no exposure to Latin America or the problem energy or agriculture sectors.

Bank of Ireland is paying some \$220 million in goodwill above the \$150 million net asset value of First NH.

The 2.2 times book value represented by the purchase price is regarded as the going rate for US regional banks at present.

"New Hampshire has a healthy state economy with good prospects. We believe First NH has an excellent management which wants to stay there."

Menzies springs surprise

By Carol Fergusson

John Menzies, the wholesale newsagent and retailing group, has most analysts' profit forecasts with a pre-tax jump of 15.4 per cent to £26.2 million for the year to January 30.

The company, which recently doubled its selling space in England with the £41 million acquisition of the 66 larger stores in the Martin retail chain, said sales of both newspapers and magazines were excellent. Sales of quality newspapers were particularly strong, as was demand for women's magazines where publishers have launched new titles.

Mr Ronald Noel-Paton, the group managing director, said that Menzies would be putting considerable effort into integrating the Martin stores. They would be converted into Menzies over the next three or four years, he said.

On the wholesaling side, he said pressure on margins was being compensated by added volumes. He added that this was a "turbulent period of change" in newspaper distribution, but that the larger, stronger companies, of which John Menzies was one, should come out of it with bigger market share.

Temper, page 26

Rowland move lifts Inoco stake to 46%

Mr David Rowland, the financier, is pumping £45 million of family-owned properties into Inoco, the former oil group, in a deal that will raise his stake in the business from 18 per cent to 46 per cent.

Inoco, where Mr Rowland is deputy chairman, is buying 36 properties in Britain and three overseas from Monaco Group Fund, an investment company controlled by Rowland trustees. The terms are £31.2 million in cash and the balance in shares.

The deal will turn Inoco into a fully fledged property company, but its brief trading record in the sector means it will drop from the full market to the USM.

The acquisition will increase the value of its property interests from £29 million to £78 million.

Bishko aims to tie up the US

By Joe Joseph



Racking up the profits: Roy Bishko yesterday celebrated an increase to £2.66 million (Photograph: James Morgan)

Tie Rack, the tie retailer which went public last June, is planning to open 63 shops this year to add to the 165 outlets already trading under its banner. Some 25 of the new stores will be in Britain and 10 or more in Europe, but the company's eyes are set on America, where 25 new Tie Racks are planned.

The confident expansion plans were underlined by a rise in pre-tax profits from £1.84 million to £2.66 million in the year to January 31, on sales that climbed 76 per cent to £29.78 million.

An extraordinary item of £414,000 represents the profits Tie Rack reaped from interest earned on applications for its shares in last summer's heavily oversubscribed flotation.

A maiden final dividend of 0.84p makes a total payment for the year of 1.21p.

Mr Roy Bishko, the chairman, who has opened shops in eight countries and hopes to turn Tie Rack into "the McDonald's of the clothing business," said the current year had started well. Sales from the group's new shops — six in Britain and one abroad — were encouraging.

"We believe that our growth potential is virtually unlimited and have set ourselves a demanding expansion programme for 1988," he said. "With this heavy expansion programme, it is likely that the start-up costs in the first half of the year, particularly in the US, combined with continued investment in people and computers, will impact on our interim results."

Thorn targets French group

By Martin Walker

Thorn EMI, the retail and electronics group, is to launch an offer for Holophone, the French glass products manufacturer, with the agreement of its board and controlling shareholders, at the same time buying out the minority 13 per cent stake held by the public in its subsidiary, Europhone.

No terms for the deal are being announced yet, but at the level at which the two companies' shares were suspended on the Paris Bourse yesterday morning, Holophone was capitalized at FF407 million (£38.26 million) and its 87 per cent holding in Europhone was worth FF196 million.

Europhone, a light fittings manufacturer ranked second in the French market, is closest to Thorn EMI's existing operations, with most of its parent's output of pressed glass products going to the car industry.

Thorn EMI in London said the intention was to retain Holophone while possibly expanding into other markets, such as consumer or commercial.

He added: "My message for those who don't believe the single market will come in 1992 is simple. You may well be right — your business might well be changed this year, next year or in 1990 or 1991."

Mr Colin Southgate, the Thorn EMI chief executive, said: "Europhone, in particular, with its exciting and complementary lighting products, would substantially add to Thorn Lighting's established position in Europe and further strengthen our move towards the single market in 1992."

Winning a beta mark

The arrival of Mark Potashnick at Kleinwort Greaveson next month to help head its market-making division, will, I hear, herald further expansion of the group's market-making activities. The 500 or so companies covered by the group include all alpha stocks already but one-time Wedd partner William Mellon, who, together with Charlie Hue Williams, will be working alongside Potashnick, says: "There is room for expansion in the beta stocks — we have been gradually increasing our coverage of beta stocks in any case but Mark's arrival will hasten that process. We are thrilled to have him on board."

Potashnick, aged 38, a quietly spoken, popular and witty man, learnt his trade under Brian Winterlood at Biscord Bishop and earned himself the nickname "Mr P&O" from his deft coverage of shipping stocks. He saw off attempts by both Akroyd and Pinchin to take that market away from him. Briefly head of market-making at the new County NatWest WoodMac combine after Winterlood resigned, he himself resigned in February and is on a family holiday in Florida. His move has, however, spurred speculation that he and Winterlood were to be reunited — I am assured there are no plans for Winterlood also to join KG.

Financial Journal Family Wealth has found the ideal venue for its Bank Manager of the Year competition: a hostelry in the City called The Bleeding Heart.

Cost-cutting exercises are not peculiar to the City. In the US, the Bank of America has, I hear, just cancelled 5,000 staff subscriptions to The Wall Street Journal, billed as "the daily diary of the American dream." A Bank of America spokesman immediately attempted to assure his colleagues that the dream was still attainable, saying: "It's not that we don't want employees to read the Journal, it's just that we think they should be paying for it themselves." With an annual subscription costing \$119, the bank will be saving more than \$500,000.

The latest in status-conscious job titles. Car-washers in California are, I hear, calling themselves vehicle appearance specialists.

secretive, while ties with wide dark stripes against a light background indicate, they say, that you are a pessimist. Clearly a must for all bears.

THATCHER LUNCHES 1992 CAMPAIGN

Smick

"Is that the EEC or is it the one against the Iranians?"

Prepare for 1992, the PM urges

By Michael Dwyer

The Prime Minister yesterday made a plea to 200 of Britain's leading business personalities to prepare for the challenge of the European single market, scheduled for completion by the end of 1992.

In a keynote speech to mark the launch of the Government's 1992 single market awareness campaign, "Europe Open for Business," Mrs Thatcher said: "It's not a dream. It's not a vision. It's not some bureaucrat's plan. It's for real. And it's only five years away."

The Prime Minister's message to delegates at Lancaster House, was echoed by Lord Young of Grahamam, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, who told the conference: "The single market will make the biggest change in business in my lifetime. Europe will soon be our home market. We cannot afford to ignore the challenge."

M Jacques Delors, the President of the European Commission, said: "Europe is once again on the move. It is no exaggeration to say that a quiet revolution is taking place. Do not be misled by the 1992 date: the revolution has already begun."

Pointing out that successful completion of the single market will be an important factor affecting Britain's competitive position in European and world markets in the next century, Mrs Thatcher said it was imperative that Britain "gets this right, because too often in the past, Britain has not taken full advantage of the opportunities."

Britain had already undergone a restructuring of its manufacturing industry putting Britain in an enviable position to benefit from the single market.

Lord Young said that decisions on the single market would be taken "month after month" for the next five years by majority voting. As a result "no two members, not even the biggest, can block the measures."

He added: "My message for those who don't believe the single market will come in 1992 is simple. You may well be right — your business might well be changed this year, next year or in 1990 or 1991."

COMMENT David Brewerton

Storehouse goes back into the firing line

Storehouse is on bid alert. The rambling retailer, twice the subject of bid attention last year, is once again in the firing line, and no wonder.

Last September, a serious bid approach from Tony Clegg's Mountleigh Group received a dusty dismissal from Sir Terence Conran, the chairman of Storehouse. The offer, which was never made because Clegg wished for an agreed deal and not a fight, was 420p. That figure, calculated on the Clegg computer before Black Monday, now looks hopelessly generous. The second approach, which did become an offer, was from the tiny Benlox, and there was no cash underwriting. Shareholders were effectively offered their own holdings back, in a different package, minus a commission. Not surprisingly, it failed.

But Storehouse is again in play, or so it seems. If Mountleigh wishes to return within the year, it will first have to convince the Takeover Panel it is free to do so. Although it never made a formal bid it did make an offer to the board, and should be bound by the hands-off rule which will also keep Benlox and any of its derivatives off Sir Terence's lawns until December.

Timing is everything, and if the potential bidder was that long, the opportunity will be lost. The moment to strike at Storehouse is right now. The next profits announcement from the group is due on June 2 and will cover the 12 months' trading to March 31, 1988. Profits are likely to have fallen from

£123 million to around £110 million, according to analysts who have been edging their forecasts back almost since the year began. Christmas was not great for any of the retailing majors, but was poor for Storehouse.

Michael Julien, the fast-moving financial Mr Fix-it, arrives from Guinness, where he has supervised production of the report and accounts issued yesterday, to be chief executive of Storehouse, on June 1. It is unlikely that a bidder would want to tangle with Mr Julien immediately he arrives, for he would be able to command the sympathy of the institutions which last year supported Storehouse when it had a vacant chair in the boardroom.

The first question Mr Julien has to address is whether the group as it stands is capable of the performance demanded by shareholders, or whether parts of the empire will have to be sold off. The potential bidders, past and present, are in no doubt: Storehouse needs rationalization. The irony is that British Home Stores was rammed into Habitat Mothercare on a whim generated in the City, and the same City would now like to see it torn apart again.

Meanwhile, the shares stand at a significant premium to the retail sector which, given the bad news to come, reflects the strength of belief that the combined forces of Robert Maxwell, Tony Clegg and Lord Stevens of MIM, all of which have arbitrated in the shares to their cost, may yet make a bid happen.

Threats to a renaissance

The whispering also began about Morgan Grenfell again yesterday after its shares rose 8p, against a falling merchant bank sector, to 252p. Despite a gradual renaissance under John Craven, the group remains a target for takeover speculation because of its apparently unstable shareholder profile.

Willis Faber seems undecided over its 21 per cent stake. First, it said it might be a seller, then it said it was not. At the right price, it almost certainly is. Then there is a small shoal of sharks. Robert Holmes à Court, Lord Hanson and Alan Bond between them have more than 11 per cent of the group.

Lastly, and probably most securely, Deutsche Bank continues to nurse its 4.9 per cent holding and the Prudential has a 6.5 per cent stake.

The takeover speculation is, to some extent, unfair. Morgan has accomplished a reorganization of its senior management and changed its chairman and chief executive without falling apart. Indeed, its management structure is stronger now than it has probably ever been. It has confounded everyone's expectations by hanging on to most of its key staff through the aftermath of the Guinness affair, just as it has managed to hang on to most of its corporate finance clients. It securities operation, meantime, is still not in the big league.

Morgan is well aware of its weaknesses, such as the lack of a strong securities distribution capability. This was behind the abortive discussions held last year with Hoare Govett Security Pacific. Although nothing came of the negotiations, they do at least show that Mr Craven is willing to consider options.

Again Atlantic's figures show substantial growth.



With turnover up from the 1986 high of £436 million to an impressive £630 million and a significant increase of 36% in pre-tax profits to £38.2 million, the Atlantic Group continued to maintain its substantial growth throughout 1987.

Acquisition and smooth integration of Comcap in the UK, coupled with outstanding performances from Computer Services Group in UK, Holland and Denmark, consolidated Atlantic's number one position across Europe.

Reinforced management and the start-up of new offices in Chicago, San Francisco and Toronto ensured further progress in the North American Market.

While expansion into Australasia and the Pacific Basin followed Atlantic's acquisition of the Sydney based CBF Group.

The 69% increase in profits generated by DEC Systems Division continued to reflect the high demand for DEC equipment.

The restructuring of Atlantic Network Systems and

the change in strategic direction to that of a market-led supplier of data communications networks should return the division to profit in 1988.

MPL made a satisfyingly positive contribution, strengthened by large orders for power systems from new blue chip customers.

GEC has taken a 40% share in Summit Group, Atlantic's property development and financial services subsidiary, which returned exceptional profits for 1987. Combined with a major development in London's Docklands now nearing completion the potential for the Group looks particularly favourable.

Finally Atlantic Medical, one of the largest suppliers of financial services and equipment to the UK private health care industry substantially improved both turnover and profits over last year's record levels.

Through continued growth and expansion Atlantic aims to become the world's leading independent supplier of technology and financial services. On present form Atlantic looks set to reach that target.

Atlantic's 1987 Performance: Major Highlights.

- Turnover increases by 44% to £630 million
- Profits up by 36% to £38.2 million
- Dividend increased by 51.5% to 7.00p per share
- Earnings per share up 33.8% to 41.54p
- Dividend covered 5.7 times by earnings
- Further acquisitions speed growth world-wide

TURNOVER	£436.1m	86
	£630.7m	87
		+44.6%
PRETAX PROFIT	£27.9m	86
	£38.2m	87
		+36.7%
DIVIDENDS	4.62p	86
	7.00p	87
		+51.5%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	30.4p	86
	41.54p	87
		+33.8%



For a copy of Atlantic's Annual Report please send to our Corporate Affairs Dept. Name: _____ Address: _____ Tel: _____ Atlantic Computers Plc. Winchmore House, 12-15 Fetter Lane, London EC4A 3BR. Telephone: 01-583 9481

GKN pays \$15.7m for US distributor

By Martin Waller

GKN, the automotive parts and engineering group, is expanding its US distribution network for vehicle parts with a \$15.7 million (£8.35 million) offer for Mid-America Industries (MAI), the owner of seven warehouses in the southern states.

Its offer has the blessing of directors and others speaking for 41.7 per cent, and GKN has an option to buy another chunk of authorized but unissued shares representing 20 per cent of the issued equity.

GKN is offering \$8.50 a share, representing a 33 per cent premium on MAI's price before the announcement.

MAI, based at Fort Smith, Arkansas, serves about 350 vehicle parts stores around the central southern states, of which 51 are company-owned, from its warehouses. It was founded in the 1920s and listed on the American Stock Exchange in 1981.

The acquisition complements GKN's existing car parts distribution business in the south-east states. Parts Industries Corporation, which operates about 15 warehouses serving 5,000 stores.

Private electricity generators 'should receive a better deal'

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Government's privatization proposals for the electricity industry must be changed to allow more competition for private generators during the run-up to moving the Central Electricity Generating Board into the private sector, a Conservative MP said yesterday.

Mr Peter Rost — a highly respected member of the all-party Select Committee on Energy, and a proponent of small local power stations that can use their excess heat to supply local factories and homes — was speaking at a London conference on privatization.

He said: "Unless an independent private sector is given even-handed opportunities to start competing now, it will not be strong enough to play more than a marginal role."

Mr Rost, the MP for Erewash, said private producers of power were still disadvantaged by the tariffs they were offered by the Central Electricity Generating Board.

"The recent report by Price Waterhouse, which the Electricity Council wants to keep confidential, confirms that

competition has been stifled by monopoly abuse. Also, private producers who wish to invest in generation have to justify a commercial return while the Central Electricity Generating Board invests in new capacity at subsidized rates."

Mr Rost said the most important factor for the industry after privatization would be a strong, independent and open regulatory system.

He said: "The structure and regulator must provide guarantees that the grid will be available to all producers, little and large — and equally open to all consumers — on fair commercial and competitive terms. This will ensure that privatized area boards do not become regional power board monopolies."

"It will ensure that small generators will have a competitive market, and it will ensure that large consumers will have competing sources of supply."

Mr Jim Smith, the chairman of the Eastern Electricity Board, who is widely regarded as the architect of the proposed structure of the priv-



Committed to growth: Jim Smith in London yesterday

atized electricity distribution service which the Government has adopted, told the conference that the industry was committed to substantial growth.

He argued that Britain still had to deal with key issues in the way other countries had done.

He said he believed that growth in the industry was

important for customers, local economies and the economy in general.

"It is important to the wealth creators in industry who are seeking to improve competitiveness and better industrial efficiency."

"The evidence which supports our belief in growth is both international in terms of energy trends of other nations, and local in terms of the way our more enlightened customers are responding to the benefits of electricity."

"All this is taking place against a backdrop of improvement in new technology which will contribute to more efficient use of technology."

He said Britain's large reserves of coal, gas and oil had led to the country not facing up to energy policy decisions in the same way as other countries.

"Are we powerless in the face of competition from abroad? Certainly we are in the electricity supply industry are fighting back by encouraging the adoption of the latest technology in industry which is so often electricity-based."

"Look on us not just as people who sell electricity, but as sellers of ideas on how electricity can be best used."

HK boom forces production switch to China

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

Hong Kong's export boom has caused a labour shortage that is forcing many local companies to switch production to China.

The Crown Colony has a population of fewer than 6 million, but it has more than 50,000 vacancies in the manufacturing sector alone, which employs almost one-third of Hong Kong's 2.8 million working population.

Construction firms say they need at least another 15,000 workers to add to their 70,000 workforce, most of whom are already working overtime.

Unemployment is below 2 per cent and there are no signs of a solution to the colony's labour shortage.

Total exports were 29 per cent higher in January than a year ago in volume terms, and imports were 34 per cent higher.

New figures released by the government show that most companies have full order books for four months and longer. The figures show that clothing firms have orders on hand for an average of 4.64 months, metal products companies for 4.28 months and electrical and electronics firms have enough work for 5.01 months.

The shortage of workers has led to a pay bonanza, with earnings of almost all industries rising sharply over the last year.

In order to fill their vacancies, and keep costs down, manufacturing firms tried to persuade the government to allow Chinese workers into Hong Kong, but the authorities are already plagued with a stream of illegal immigrants and they refused.

Another proposal, backed by the Federation of Hong

Kong Industries, suggested the setting-up of a special industrial zone close to the border with Communist China so that Chinese workers could go home at night.

Early this month, neighbouring Macao, a Portuguese colony facing its own labour shortage, agreed to allow 600 Chinese workers to cross the border each day to earn about HK\$50 (£3.50). But that scheme was also rejected by the Hong Kong government.

The province of Guangdong, close to Hong Kong, estimates it has 10,000 factories and almost 1 million people working for Hong Kong bosses. Among examples:

● RJP International, the electronic toys manufacturer, went public soon after the market crash last year because it was desperate to raise money to expand into China. The company could not find enough workers in the Crown Colony, so shifting production to China was the only solution, according to Mr Robert Li, the company president.

Now 40 per cent of his products are made in China and within two months he will open two new plants there.

● Luk's Industrial makes television sets, and most of its production now comes from China. Workers on Luk's assembly line in China earn about HK\$1,000 a month, about one third the going rate in Hong Kong, according to Mr Luk King-tin, the managing director.

● Kader International, which makes toys and plastic goods, has a factory with just half the 3,000 workers it needs to operate at full capacity, even though at HK\$3,000 a month his wages are higher than average.

£3m Reinhold buyout

Charterhouse, the merchant bank, has put together a management buyout at M Reinhold & Co, a subsidiary of Dawson International, the textiles group best known for its Braemar and Pringle labels.

The terms are not known, but the deal is thought to be worth about £3 million. The company was formed in 1926 by Mr Morris Reinhold, whose son, Bernard, the

present chairman, is leading the buy-out team.

It was acquired by Dawson in 1973, but no longer fits with Dawson's intention to concentrate on the top end of the branded knitwear market.

The company is a wholesaler of women's knitwear, cottonwear and leisurewear. The buyout will create a company called Emreco International.

Ketson success

Ketson, the marketing services and communications group formerly known as Glanfield Lawrence, the motor dealer, and relisted last September, made pretax profits of £495,000 in the year to the end of December against a loss of £94,000 the previous year.

Earnings per share were 3.8p against a loss per share of 2.2p. Merger accounting principles have been used.

Geevor diversifies into coal

By Colin Campbell

Geevor Tin Mines, the Cornish miner knocked and battered by the changed fortunes of the tin industry, is seeking a new lease of life.

The company plans to broaden its base by acquiring a Lancashire coal mine in the first of a series of moves away from tin. The company is also

making an underwritten £2.86 million rights issue.

Mr Eric Grayson, Geevor chairman, said yesterday Geevor plans to acquire Eurogrange Limited, owner of Castle Colliery in Lancashire, in which he personally has a 60 per cent interest, as a first step in putting Geevor's outlook on a more solid footing.

In view of his personal

interest, Mr Grayson will not be voting on the proposals which need shareholders' approval. The proposed acquisition will be satisfied by the issue of 325,000 Geevor shares at 100p each.

Geevor Tin Mines will change its name to Geevor PLC, and plans a rights issue on a one-for-one basis at 100p a share.

Record profits from optimistic De Beers

By Colin Campbell

De Beers Consolidated Mines, the world's premier diamond mining company, says that in spite of the initial hesitancy after Black Monday, the current mood in the cutting centres and the retail trade is again optimistic.

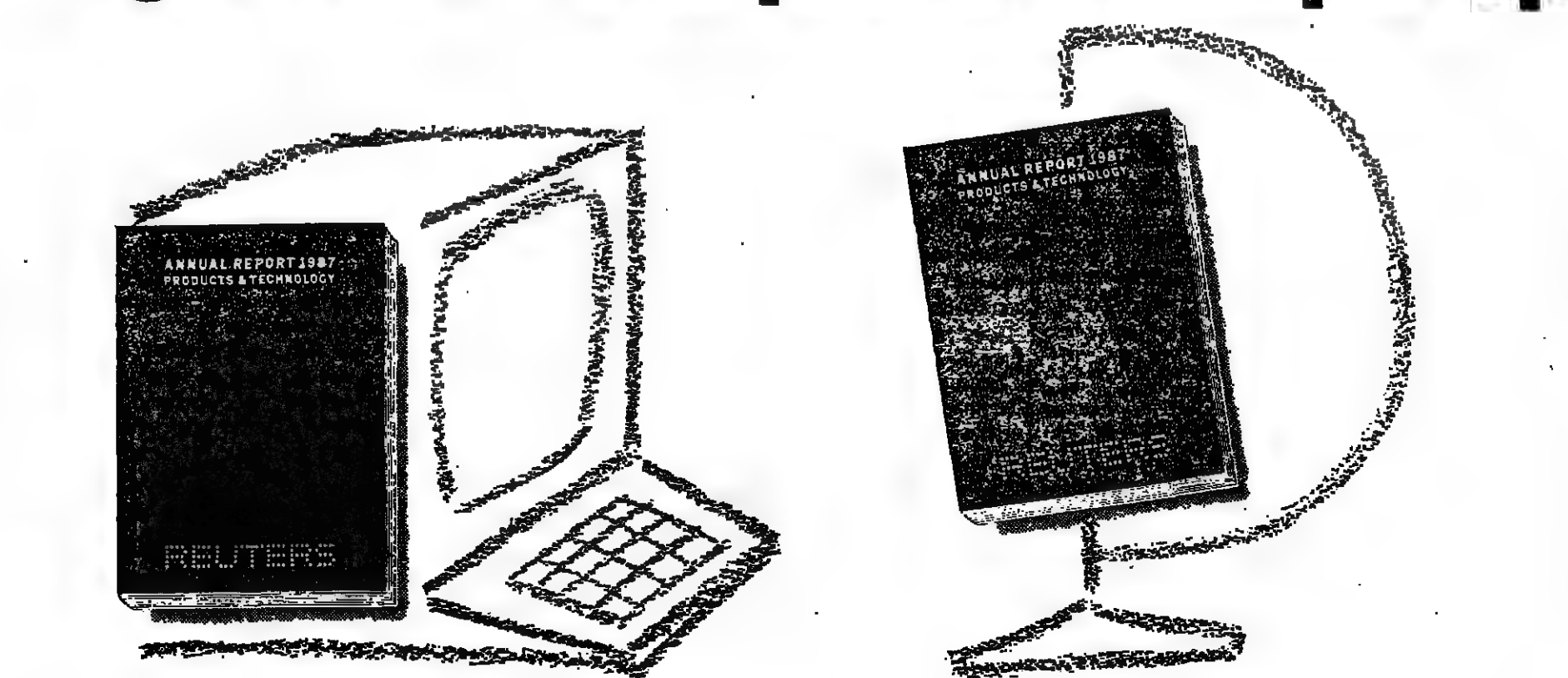
Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson, the chairman, adds in his 1987 annual review that "we can look forward to another satisfactory year".

De Beers, now 100 years old, achieved record attrib-

utable profits of R1.04 billion (£244 million) and its Central Selling Organization marketing arm announced record rough diamond sales in 1987.

Retail sales in the United States again grew by 10 per cent, and in Japan — the second biggest market — sales were buoyant. After a number of disappointing years, there was a strengthening of demand in Europe where, in dollars, sales are estimated to have advanced by 14 per cent.

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ANNUAL REPORT 1987

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings
April 18

Last Dealings
April 28

Last Dealings
July 14

For Settlement
July 25

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An invitation to join Stockwatch

Dear Investor,

One question you frequently ask yourselves, and sometimes ask me, is whether or not the stock market game is worth the candle.

The stock market collapse which shook the world six months ago wiped out many people's accumulated gains. It also caused some people actual losses.

The course of equity markets in the next year or two is a matter of debate.

Some commentators are working on the "second leg" theory and expect a re-run of Black Monday some time this year.

Others are equally convinced that a fundamental adjustment has taken place, and that the markets of the world are back on solid ground. That, indeed, is my own view.

History is the only guide we have to the future. One interesting measure from Henderson Administration is

that an investor who bought at the top of the previous bull market in May 1972, endured the 70 per cent collapse that followed, and left his money in shares for the duration of the 1975-87 bull market, would have seen an annual average rate of return of 12.3 per cent, even after Black Monday.

The FT All-Share index has produced a better return than building society deposits or gilts, despite two market collapses.

The key to profitable investment is information, and that is why *The Times* is introducing Stockwatch, details of which are explained below.

I invite all investors to give this new service a trial: it will cost you nothing.

Yours sincerely,
David Brewerton
Executive Editor
Finance and Industry

WIN £50,000 IN UNIT TRUSTS

Our Stockwatch competition, with £50,000 worth of unit trusts from Equitable Life as prizes, is now under way.

Equitable Life has an excellent reputation and a long history of sound investment and good returns. Beginning this week, you can win £1,000 worth of its recommended unit trusts each week.

Playing Stockwatch is simple. It involves making a single telephone call each day, Monday to Friday.

You can play right now (or at any time, day or night) by picking up your telephone and calling 0898-141-400, the Stockwatch competition number.

You will hear the voice of a well-known personality in business, finance or industry. The voice will make a brief statement which will provide a further clue to its identity.

Each day, when you call 0898-141-400, you will hear a different voice, five each week. The recording of the day's personality will change at 4am each day.

To help you identify all the voices, photographic clues to the five personalities will appear in *The Times* on Saturday, together with an entry coupon.

The first correct entry opened after the closing date will win the £1,000 worth of unit trusts. Winners may select the type of unit trust they prefer from a range recommended by Equitable Life.

Call 0898-141-400 now. Can you identify the voice of today's business leader?

A phone call away from share price movements

By Our Financial Staff

One of the most repeated hard luck stories told in City bars concerns the share that got away. And in these days of populist share dealing the tales are being heard in the pubs, on the golf course and around the dinner tables the length and breadth of the land.

Usually they feature the investor who moved too late. "I had an eye on them but couldn't get in on time," he is heard complaining. Worse is he who sold only to see the wretched things begin to take off.

Then there are those who have tried of a share and have been planning to sell. They open *The Times* Business News section to find the market has pre-empted them, and the price has moved against them.

They have fewer excuses as members of Stockwatch. A telephone, a keypad and an index will keep them in instant touch with share price movements. Not only will a regular price check alert them to any sudden change in trend, but, in the case of the leading shares, it will keep them informed of the amount of business being done in the particular stock.

So the ordinary, private investor will have at his fingertips access to the same information as the professional investment manager running a billion-pound pension fund.

It is because the institutional fund manager and the investment trust director and the stockbroker analyst all have this kind of data instantly available on their personal screens, via a series of electronic services, that Britain's 9 million share investors need to keep their finger on the market pulse too.

It is true that the professional investors will retain a dealing advantage, but this could well evaporate before very long. Meanwhile, Stock-

watch does much to redress the balance.

For instance, investors with an interest in Courtaulds who had kept in touch with the price during the course of Friday's trading may well have detected the stirrings that eventually led to the rise in the share price late that evening.

A Stockwatch subscriber who had checked in every hour would have been in a position to plot the course of the share price in the same way as has been done in the accompanying chart.

By using different share codes he will be able to follow the course taken by any of 3,000 share prices, and indeed, the stock market as a whole. A special code calls up the FT-SE index, which can again be charted if the investor so wishes. For convenience, our chart follows the index every hour, on the hour, but the Stockwatch member can check at any time he chooses.

Calling up share prices every minute of the day could, of course, prove expensive. This is why every effort has been made to keep down the cost. Investors will, for instance, only be charged for the time they use, that is 5p for each eight seconds during peak periods, and 5p for 12 seconds off peak. (The quarterly bill will simply form part of the telephone account).

The speed of the response to the call is clearly important, but what is additionally invaluable to the caller is the reliability. Citycall uses the most up-to-date equipment developed by British Telecom, including its latest optic fibre technology, which eliminates crossed lines and interference on calls.

What happens if the lines go down? Stockwatch has thought of that. Citycall, through its relationship with British Telecom, has been able to set up a duplicate system that reaches the Citycall headquarters from a geographically opposite direction.



The tones behind the electronic marvel

Dave Mitchell is the owner of the voice that subscribers will hear when they call up Stockwatch. But they will not be talking to Mr Mitchell. He has pre-recorded about 13,000 names and numbers for the Voicetek voice-processing equipment that forms part of the Stockwatch computer.

This is how it works. After accessing the relevant share price information through its direct link with the Stock Exchange's Seag computer, the Voicetek equipment sifts its memory banks for relevant words recorded by Mr Mitchell that will transform the electronic beeps into English.

An Alpha share price check will normally require 29 sound elements. All of them are found, and arranged, instantly as far as the ear is concerned.

Mr Mitchell, who previously worked for BBC radio, was selected because his voice had the right "sound frequencies" as well as being authoritative without being stuffy.

He has spent more than 120 hours recording every name and number that could be conceivably required. And he has not finished yet. Every new entry will have to be covered by Mr Mitchell's voice. What happens if he falls under the proverbial bus? "We have contingency plans," says Miss Caroline Griffiths, the general manager of Citycall.

(Photograph: James Morgan)

In other words, in an emergency, the service is instantly diverted through a completely different system.

Citycall's relationship with British Telecom is one of the reasons it was chosen by *The Times* to operate Stockwatch. It pioneered the telephone information service, with the launch of its general market report in February 1985.

In the early days the bulletin, which remains its most popular service, was available only to London subscribers, but it went nationwide in April the next year. The following November Citycall introduced the first concatenated speech from a live database.

Today it provides a range of services from individual share prices and market reports to foreign exchanges, commod-

ities, traded options, tax hints and expert interviews.

It is run by Miss Caroline Griffiths, a Cambridge maths and economics graduate who abandoned a six-year career with the BBC to edit Citycall's first market report three years ago.

At the BBC she worked on television programmes such as *Tomorrow's World* and two radio financial programmes, *The Financial World Tonight* and *Moneybox*.

Her staff comprises two editors and eight reporters, who are engaged in writing regular reports throughout the day on most of the City's markets. The reports are recorded in one of the company's three recording studios and fed into the computer, where they can be accessed by any Stockwatch member.

Plug into a special telephone discount



As part of the introductory package, British Telecom is offering readers of *The Times* an enticing discount on an M-F multi-frequency telephone.

Members who have access to an M-F telephone will find the service even easier to use because it does away with the need to use the tone generator keypad.

Members will then be able to plug in their M-F telephone at home for everyday use. The telephone is a fully electronic, low-profile instrument with adjustable volume. They can then carry the tone generator keypad so they can call the Stockwatch service when away from home. Full details of the offer are included in the membership pack.

STOCKWATCH: AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE FOR INVESTORS

Since the launch of *The Times* Stockwatch yesterday, thousands of interested readers have rung the demonstration number to find out how this exciting service can keep them up to date with the latest movements in the stock market.

The service, which gives instant access to more than 10,000 shares, unit trusts, bonds and funds, makes it the most comprehensive available.

It is our intention to make this information as widely available as possible. For the introductory period, membership of the service is free. Although we ask for an initial £10 as an act of good faith, this is refunded in full with a voucher for £10 redeemable against your telephone bill. Just deduct £10 from your next bill and attach the voucher.

The cost of making the call is kept to a minimum. The computer-activated voice delivers requested information in seconds and that is all you pay for. The rate is 5p per 12 seconds off peak and 5p per eight seconds at other times inclusive of VAT.

And there is a wide range of financial information to be accessed. Stockwatch members have access to a comprehensive range of financial reports and bulletins from precious metals to penny shares, from currencies to company news and information from stock markets around the world.

But what will be particularly useful to investors is the ability to create their very own portfolio using *The Times* Stockwatch portfolio service.

This service is programmed to store

details of up to 25 different shares and investments in any combination. By using their unique passwords, members will have instant access to their portfolio. In addition, they can find out the latest valuation of their shares and the value of their entire portfolio.

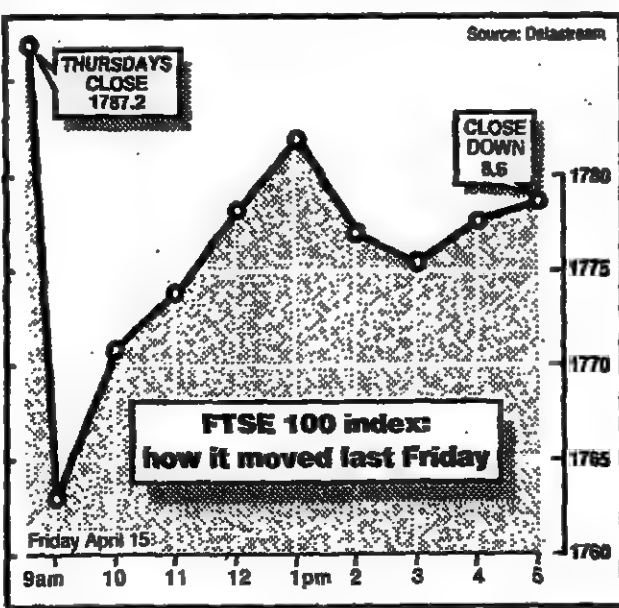
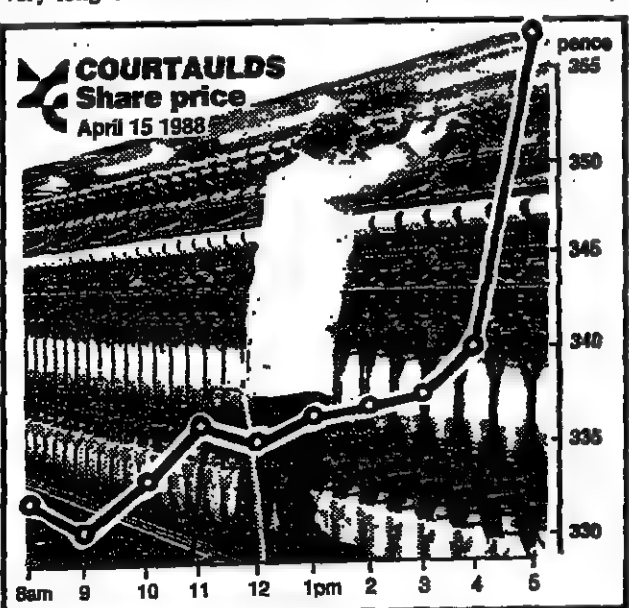
If you want to keep a close watch on the stock market and have up-to-the-minute financial information at your fingertips, you should take advantage of *The Times* Stockwatch charter offer of free membership by completing and mailing the application form at the bottom of this page.

Each application must include an initial payment of £10 which will be totally refunded in the form of a voucher which can be set against your next telephone bill.

In your membership pack, you will receive:

- An index book of share codes, and user manual;
- An index book of codes to unit trusts and other investments;
- An M-F tone generator keypad;
- Privilege offer coupon for the latest electronic switchable M-F telephone;
- Details of *The Times* Stockwatch competition in which £50,000 worth of unit trusts from Equitable Life can be won; and
- A £10 Refund Voucher, redeemable against your ordinary telephone bill.

You can try the Stockwatch service right now. If you would like to hear how Stockwatch works, pick up your telephone and call 0898-141-141 for a brief demonstration.



Access to financial markets made easy

One of the factors that makes the Stockwatch financial phone-line so impressive is its ability to transform the most complex, up-to-date technological wizardry through the simplest of operations.

Anyone who can use a telephone can use Stockwatch. All they have to remember is that if they do not have a tone-dialling telephone receiver they must use the special keypad provided.

Along with the keypad every subscriber will receive two code books - for shares and other investments; a user guide and a personal Stockwatch seven-digit password.

The instructions could hardly be easier. On dialling the main Stockwatch number, the caller will be asked to key in a sharecode. If all he needs is a price he taps in the relevant five-digit share code given in his index.

If it is one of the 132 Alpha stocks, such as British Telecom, the voice of Citycall's Dave Mitchell will tell him: "British Telecom. Bid 249. Offer 252. Last traded at 249. Today's approximate volume

728,000," although of course the figures will be constantly changing.

In the case of Beta stocks and Seag international shares he will hear a bid price, offer price and the last movement, while inquiries about gamma shares will elicit a mid price and the day's change.

He need not panic if he forgets the number, or hits the wrong key. Just like most bank cash cards the Stockwatch computer allows three attempts. The investor will simply be asked to try again.

Of course the investor may not want a specific share or unit trust price at all. He may be seeking the gold price or the mark exchange rate, or want to hear a market report. All have their own codes.

Using the personal portfolio service is not much more complicated. Members must have their own password to hand. When instructed to key a sharecode, they must remember to key the "star" button. They will then be asked for the seven-figure password.

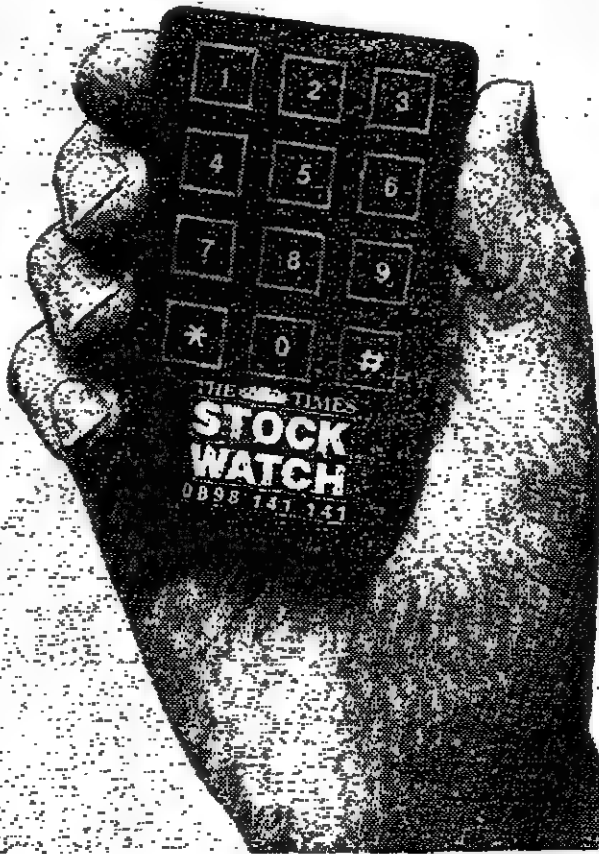
This calls up the portfolio menu, listing the following options:

- Key 1 to listen to the portfolio;
- Key 2 to add a sharecode;
- Key 3 to delete a sharecode;
- Key 4 to list the items in the portfolio;
- Key 5 to change the quantity of shares or units;
- Key 6 to wipe out the entire portfolio; and
- Key 0 for the value of the portfolio.

None of this works, however, until the investor's portfolio has been entered into the system. Key 2 creates the file and the subscriber enters the sharecode for the first of his investments.

At this point he will be asked to key the quantity, which he will be instructed to end with a star. Then he punches in his next sharecode.

There are special buttons for skipping forwards, jumping back and interrupting the service, which can be used at any point by the Stockwatch member, and there is another telephone line for anyone who gets stuck.



Tapping into shares: the keypad telephone transducer

THE TIMES STOCKWATCH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To apply for free charter membership of THE TIMES STOCKWATCH Service, please complete this application form, enclose the £10 'good faith' deposit, and send to the address given below. PLEASE USE BALLPOINT AND CAPITAL LETTERS.

SURNAME (Mr/Mrs/Ms) _____ INITIALS _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

TELEPHONE (Home) _____ (Business) _____

OCCUPATION _____ DATE _____

I enclose a cheque or Postal Order for £10 made payable to 'BT CITYCALL LTD'. (This will be refundable as a voucher redeemable against my telephone bill).

Please debit my Access/Visa card no: _____

EXPIRY DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Send remittance and coupon to: The Times Stockwatch, FREEPOST, Newbury, Berkshire, RG13 1BR

Please allow up to 28 days for your membership pack from receipt of order. Offer available in the UK only.

*Free membership available for a limited period only

© In conjunction with Citycall

De Beers still leads after 100 years - centenary marked by record sales, profits and dividend.

Extracts from Julian Ogilvie Thompson's Statement for 1987

It must be unique for a company which on its formation became the leader of an international business, indisputably still to hold that position at its centenary. Yet that is the achievement of De Beers Consolidated Mines, which was formed on 12th March, 1888, and celebrated its centenary on 11th March, 1988, at a banquet in Kimberley.

It is no less gratifying that in our centenary year the Central Selling Organisation should have been able to announce record sales of rough diamonds, and the Company to announce record profits and declare its highest dividend ever.

The sharp fall in prices on world stock exchanges from the middle of October understandably caused hesitancy in diamond markets. Fulfilling its traditional role, the CSO responded by severely reducing its sales at the November and December sights and maintained its cautious policy into the new year. This action, together with reports of good Christmas sales in the retail trade, resulted in a restoration of confidence during the first quarter of 1988 and the market is once again firm.

Further growth.

For the fifth successive year world retail sales of diamond jewellery established a record, principally as a result of increasing consumer confidence and spending — a reflection in turn of further growth in the world economy — and the success of our major advertising and promotion campaigns in 28 countries. Retail sales in the United States again grew by some 10 per cent and sales outside the US were stimulated by the fall in the dollar. In Japan, the second biggest market, sales were buoyant, particularly in the larger pieces and men's jewellery. Strong growth was also evident in other parts of the Pacific Rim. In Europe, after a number of disappointing years, there has been a strengthening of demand, and overall we estimate that in dollar terms sales in the major markets rose by 14 per cent, as they did in 1986. The mood in both the cutting centres and the retail trade is optimistic, so that given the maintenance of producer co-operation and growth in the major economies we can look forward to another satisfactory year.

Industrial Sales.

Sales of natural industrial diamonds and of synthetic abrasives and polycrystalline diamond (PCD) products were a record in both volume and value and the trend has continued into 1988. There has been some recovery in the natural drilling market, after several years of depression; and PCD products are penetrating new areas of application — rather than displacing other diamond tools — for example as large cutting pieces for oil-well drilling and the wood-working industry.

The Argyle mine in Australia, which in terms of volume is the world's largest producer, has been operating at full capacity for the last two years. The absorption by the market of most of the cuttable portion of its production has been remarkable. This has been greatly facilitated by the efforts of the CSO, both in its methods of assortment and sale and through its consumer advertising; by the constructive relationship between it and Argyle Diamond Sales; and by the ingenuity of the Indian industry, which manufactures the majority of these stones, in working them.

An important development during the

year was the exchange by De Beers Botswana Mining Company (Debswana), in which the Government of Botswana is an equal partner, of part of the stock of diamonds accumulated in the depression of the early eighties for a five per cent shareholding in De Beers itself. The arrangements also entitle Debswana to representation on the boards of De Beers and the Diamond Trading Company. As the new mines discovered by De Beers' geologists in Botswana have been brought into production in the last two decades Debswana has become the western world's major producer of diamonds, by value, and it is entirely appropriate that it should participate fully in the decision-making of De Beers and the CSO. I am sure the arrangement will further strengthen the stability and confidence of the industry as a whole.

Total production from De Beers' mines and Debswana in 1987 was marginally lower at 22,842,586 carats. The mines have continued to control costs satisfactorily in an inflationary

the Navachab gold deposit, north-west of Windhoek, discovered in 1984. In consequence CDM will invest R30 million in the new open-cast mine.

In December shareholders approved the De Beers Employee Shareholder Scheme enabling employees in South Africa and Namibia to acquire shares in the Company, on an equal and voluntary basis, and at no cost to themselves. The response to the initial offer of 10 shares to each employee in January was encouraging and it is proposed to continue the scheme for at least four more years. Our purpose is to enable all our employees to participate in a meaningful, if initially modest, way in the wealth-creating process and the success of the company they work for.

The employment practices section of the annual report records the progress that has been achieved in other important areas. I would mention in particular the growth in our home-ownership scheme and the success of

Reform for South Africa.

De Beers strongly supports rapid reform towards equal opportunity and dignity for all South Africans, based on full participation in the political process. Regrettably, I cannot report any notable progress in this direction in the year under review. The May 1987 election for the White Chamber of Parliament was fought largely on the issues of sanctions and security, and the response of the electorate, significantly, showed a marked swing to the right, with Afrikaans-speaking voters leaving the ruling National party for the Conservative party, while English-speakers swung from the Progressive Federal party and the New Republic party to the Nationalists. The overall effect was to make the Government much more concerned about pressure from its right — the Conservative party having replaced the Progressives as the official opposition — than from its left, and in consequence the reform process came almost to a halt. The Group Areas Act, one of the last great pillars of apartheid, is to be amended, not scrapped, and it remains to be seen whether the changes to be tabled will be bold enough to relieve the pressure on the few "grey" residential areas that have been tolerated.

KwaZulu/Natal Indaba.

A measure of consolation may be found in the fact that some of the positive changes made in earlier years have continued to bear fruit. In industrial relations, in education, in housing and in black participation in business, particularly in the informal sector, there has been progress. A joint executive authority between Natal and KwaZulu has been established and the Government, notwithstanding some discouraging statements, is said still to be considering the innovative constitutional proposals of the KwaZulu/Natal Indaba.

South Africa continues to be governed under a state of emergency, and recently far-reaching new restrictions were imposed upon a number of political and semi-political organisations. It is not easy to discern the reasons for what was done; if it is indeed true that South Africa can only be governed by such methods as these, then the need for constitutional reform is obviously greater than ever.

Despite sanctions and disinvestment there has been a marked recovery in economic activity, and in the black urban areas at least there seems to be some improvement in the quality of life. The Government's major concern now is to embark on a wide-ranging reform of the economic system. That is certainly as important as it is welcome, but it has to be realised that economic progress and political reform go together. One effect of the recent bannings may be to intensify sanctions and disinvestment, counter-productive though they have proved to be politically, and damaging as they are to the livelihood of those they ostensibly seek to help. More than ever it is urgently necessary to negotiate and implement a constitution which can provide equal opportunity and political participation for all, protected by an entrenched Bill of Rights.

The full Chairman's Statement is contained in the Annual Report of the Company for the year ended 31st December 1987 which was posted to registered Shareholders on 18th April 1988.

De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited
(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)
London Office
40 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1AJ.



The diamond industry employs several million people in over forty countries across four continents of the world.

environment. Plant modifications at the Jwaneng mine in Botswana should result in a further increase in production of some five per cent this year. Close co-operation between the mines and the Diamond Research Laboratory continues to result in the introduction of improved recovery and more cost-effective techniques.

The economic appraisal of the Venetia pipes in the Northern Transvaal has been updated, but unfortunately the project continues to show an inadequate return on investment under current parameters, including the taxation capital allowance base. We shall continue to do all we can to turn this potentially important occurrence to account.

Our world-wide prospecting programmes have been continued; there are no discoveries of economic significance to report.

For many years our wholly-owned subsidiary CDM has financed one-third of the Anglo American Group's prospecting programme in Namibia. We were, therefore, particularly pleased when Anglo American, jointly with CDM, announced in October that it would be opening at a cost of R90 million

the pre-university bursary scheme for black undergraduates, which we initiated with Anglo American Corporation at the University of the Witwatersrand, and is now being extended to the universities of Cape Town and Natal. To improve understanding of the career opportunities offered by the mining industry and its educational requirements we have introduced a new system of liaison between the mines and secondary school teachers and pupils which should be of benefit to all concerned.

Legislation removing job reservation in the mining industry has at last been passed but not yet brought into operation, pending the determination of new regulations. It is highly important that this long-outstanding matter should be brought to finality quickly, and that the regulations should facilitate the award of certificates of competency to qualified blacks.

The Anglo American and De Beers Chairman's Fund and Educational Trust approved expenditure during the year of R49 million, of which some 80 per cent is on education, primarily to help redress the imbalance between the black and white educational systems.

De Beers

مركز الأعمال

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dividend

South Africa

De Beers

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it matches, or better, then you have won outright or a share of the daily or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Cash at
1	Pratt & Whitney	Industrials L-F	100
2	BP Petroleum (sa)	Oil/Gas	100
3	Warrington	Building/Roads	100
4	Smith Ind	Industrials S-Z	100
5	House Of Lottos	Draperies	100
6	Beetwood	Industrials A-D	100
7	AAF Int	Industrials A-D	100
8	Wolfschmidt Rink	Chemicals/Plas	100
9	Beckwith	Property	100
10	Beckwith PLC (sa)	Industrials A-D	100
11	British Gas (sa)	Oil/Gas	100
12	Carters 'A'	Draperies	100
13	Penny (Africa)	Draperies	100
14	Cap & Cousins	Property	100
15	Card Gp	Property	100
16	Asst & Lacey	Industrials A-D	100
17	Arlan	Electricals	100
18	STC (sa)	Electricals	100
19	Drummond	Textiles	100
20	Stonchill	Industrials S-Z	100
21	Warford	Property	100
22	Allied-Lyons (sa)	Breweries	100
23	Taylor Woodrow	Building/Roads	100
24	Leeds Sec Int	Property	100
25	Beckwith (SAW)	Property	100
26	Int Bus Comm	Newspapers/Pub	100
27	Odyssey-Schep (sa)	Food	100
28	Alexander Wm	Industrials A-D	100
29	Wade Poteries	Industrials S-Z	100
30	Keep Trust	Industrials S-Z	100
31	Kwik Save	Food	100
32	Haywood Williams	Building/Roads	100
33	Dixons Gp (sa)	Draperies	100
34	McIntyre	Property	100
35	Woolworth (sa)	Draperies	100
36	Concentric	Industrials A-D	100
37	Beird (Wm)	Industrials A-D	100
38	Brent Chem	Chemicals/Plas	100
39	Home Counties	Newspapers/Pub	100
40	Tarmac (sa)	Building/Roads	100
41	Rush & Tompkins	Property	100
42	Chick (H)	Motor/Aircraft	100
43	Beckwith Hill	Industrials A-D	100
44	Beckwith Ltd	Daily Text	100

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

1987/88 High Low Share Price Div % YTD

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1987/88	High	Low	Share	Price	Div	%	YTD
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1987/88	High	Low	Share	Price	Div	%	YTD
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1987/88	High	Low	Share	Price	Div	%	YTD
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50

UNDATED

1987/88	High	Low	Share	Price	Div	%	YTD
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50

INDEX-LINKED

1987/88	High	Low	Share	Price	Div	%	YTD
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1987/88	High	Low	Share	Price	Div	%	YTD
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Gains trimmed

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 11. Dealings end April 22. Contango day April 25. Settlement day May 3.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (sa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 28.)

1987/88	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	%	YTD
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50

1987/88	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	%	YTD
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50

1987/88	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	%	YTD
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50

1987/88	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	%	YTD
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50

1987/88	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	%	YTD
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.5	
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
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1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
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1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
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1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
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1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
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1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
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1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
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1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
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1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	99.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1000000	100.00	99.00					

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مكزاة الأما

هكزام الاصيل

TECHNOLOGY/1

Moves are on the way to make sure that an infection doesn't become an epidemic

The rogue virus is spreading

Hackers are not a joke, they are infecting high technology, says Matthew May

Computer viruses - rogue programs which can spread throughout a computer's memory and discs, causing great disruption - are continuing to worry organizations.

Last week a senior computer scientist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration warned that electronic viruses were continuing to spread through some of their computers at the centre.

"It moves very, very quickly," said David Lavery of Nasa who discovered it. "The user is not even aware that it's there."

This particular virus is limited to personal computers and staff are confident it will not spread to the more important mainframe computers which Nasa uses. It is being described as benign, a reference to the belief that it was not intentionally designed to cause damage.

Initially discovered on a Macintosh, its manufacturer, Apple Computer, is assisting officials in trying to find the culprit.

"This is a criminal act," said Cynthia Macon of Apple. "It's not a game. It's not mischief. It causes people to lose information."

Such viruses have become a hot topic among both the computer

industry and its customers though experts are divided on whether they are a passing fad or a threat with the potential of its creators holding companies to ransom by threatening to wipe out data.

The simplest form of virus usually consists of a few hundred instructions in computer code which deletes existing parts of a program and replaces them with copies of itself.

What is seen as particularly worrying is the way that viruses reproduce themselves and spread to other computers, either over a network or through the copying and passing on of computer discs.

They can be activated by a whole host of factors - when a file reaches a certain size for example, or on a particular date. It means they can lie dormant for months or years with the possibility that they will be widely copied during that period. If undiscovered, a virus could delete every piece of information on a system.

One virus discovered in Israel, for example, is said to be programmed to start deleting information on the first Friday 13th in 1988. That occurs next month and none will know until then whether all the copies have been found in time.

So far viruses have generally been pranks, often getting out of hand as they spread through a network. University networks have been particularly prone to have electronic mail bulletin boards in the US, which are used far more widely than in Europe.



But it is the potential for deliberate attempts to sabotage a company that concerns software firms. Recently a virus was discovered on some legitimate copies of a commercial program for the Macintosh from Aldus.

The company moved quickly to replace them and the virus was not serious but if any firm got a reputation for releasing an "infected" product the effect on sales could be disastrous.

The fear is, though some say it is

over-fanciful, that, like the deliberate contamination of food, such firms could find themselves under threat that a virus had been placed in a particular software product, which would only be revealed on the payment of a ransom.

It is not all bad news. Software companies can, for example, legitimately claim that the threat of picking up an infected program is considerably greater if you use pirated or unauthorized copies. Much safer, they say, to buy their original software products.

And once discovered, viruses, so far, have been quickly removed. Keeping frequent back-up copies considerably reduces the possibility of serious damage if the system gets corrupted.

Another precaution suggested is for personal computer users to switch off a machine between changing discs.

The general views of the way in which computer users protect their equipment is not good. A report, supported by the EEC, warned last week that security on systems throughout Europe is inadequate.

"Unless action is taken to improve levels of computer and network security, the consequences for individual enterprises could be severe, even catastrophic."

The £1 million study, by the consultants Coopers and Lybrand, covered seven European countries and said that while organizations were becoming increasingly dependent on information technology, lax security meant they were skating on thin ice.

This could ultimately act as a brake on economic development in Europe, it added, despite the fact that inexpensive measures could solve many of the problems.

The day is fast approaching, many believe, when filters and protection systems will have to be used before accepting discs into a computer's memory or taking in information over a computer network. Leaving a computer unguarded will become as safe as leaving a car unlocked.

PERSPECTIVE

Old dogs and new tricks

By Richard Sarson

Some years ago, I worked in a micro dealer alongside a 16-year old called Andy. He did not have an exam success to his name.

But he could grab any new computer, printer, widget, operating system or language that came into the shop, and "tuss" it out before sundown.

He had insatiable curiosity and the persistence to fit all the details together until they ticked.

If anybody in that dealers had a technical problem, whether it was hardware or software, he would ask for Andy. But because of his educational background - or lack of it - there was a reluctance to describe him as computer literate.

There seemed to be no suitable alternative word in the English language, so I coined the word "computer" for him, and for all those who have learnt to use the computer as a tool.

Andy's competence did not make him a philosopher or a captain of industry. He left to become a hardware engineer, which he may still be doing. But he passed on some of his competence to me, for which I will always be grateful.

With Andy's help - I was more than 50 at the time - I mastered word-processing. Before that, I could not write, because I could not abide the mess on a sheet of paper after a few crossings out. The dreadful tangle destroyed my flow of thought.

I never had the courage to learn to type, because of the dreadful irreversibility of pressing the wrong key.

Now, the text always appears perfect on the screen, however many mistakes or changes I make. Those perfectly-formed and spaced characters on my brightly coloured screen encourage me to write on.

A philosophy professor from an American university once put it to me in another way: "The cursor is saying gimme, gimme the whole time, so I just have to give."

My writer's block has gone. I now scratch a living from writing, which I would never have done before I learnt to master this infernal toy.

Andy also taught me spreadsheets. Before, I could not add up a column of figures.

and therefore used an accountant to make up for my own innumeracy. Now, I am in business on my own, and like to think I terrorize my taxman with my impeccable spreadsheet-created matrix printed returns.

So, competent Andy, illiterate and innumerate in the eyes of the educational system though he may be, has made me competent, and thereby more literate and numerate than I was.

Before I met Andy, I had been 28 years as a faceless executive in the computer industry and thought I knew all the high-order, computer-literate stuff - systems analysis, project management, cost-performance and the social utility of computers.



Richard Sarson: Coining a name for his mentor

Only when I started bashing a keyboard myself did I realize how little I really understood of all this.

A wise man said to me recently: "Computers are like sex. You can read about them until you are blue in the face. But there is no alternative to hands-on experience."

Now, I believe myself to be a little wiser, not only because competence has taught me to do things I found it hard to do before.

It has also, even more curiously, made me more ready to have a go at DIY jobs around the house. If becoming competent has done all this for me in my dotage, how much more necessary it is to apply it to the young.

The author is a freelance journalist who, for four years after learning to use a word processor, won The Times computer journalist award for writing features in 1986.



Herbert Naarmann with a roll of plastic that will conduct electricity

The bootlid battery

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A discovery that turns conventional ideas about plastics on their head was revealed last week to scientists at the Royal Society of Chemistry's annual congress.

Instead of behaving as an insulator, like a good plastic should, the new substance has electrical and thermal characteristics of the best conducting metals, like copper.

Traditional plastics have been given electrical and magnetic properties by mixing them with particles and metallic particles and carbon.

But the new material has inherent electro-chemical properties that make it a good electrical and thermal conductor.

When giving details of the new compound, Dr Herbert Naarmann, from the research laboratories of the West German chemical giant, BASF, simply unravelled a fabric of material about a metre wide.

He also demonstrated its elastic, as well as its electrical, properties by stretching it to twice its length. It is being

used experimentally to make novel types of batteries expected to become available later this year.

The plastic is made from a family of organic chemicals known as the polypyrroles, and Dr Naarmann said the idea is not simply to substitute the metal electrodes of the heavy lead-acid or nickel-cadmium batteries now in use. The intention is to completely redesign equipment.

The case of a camera, for example, or the boot lid of a car could be moulded completely from the new plastic; hence giving the object a built-in battery.

Metal connections in electronic equipment can be replaced by plastic circuits. Because of the advantage of weight, an attractive application is for the electrical and electronic systems of aircraft.

Even more important, it is a stable material that will operate at a wide range of temperatures from extremely cold to very high. Thus it will allow future computer systems and other sensitive electronic instruments to operate under circumstances that were hitherto impossible.

But he said the idea is not a simple substitute for the metal electrodes of the heavy lead-acid or nickel-cadmium batteries now in use.

Instead of using the electrically-conducting plastic as an alternative for metal anodes or wire circuits, he suggested some of the ways it could lead to a complete redesign of equipment.

By moulding a complete camera case or the boot lid of a car from the new plastic, these products will have their own built-in batteries.

Metal connections in electronic equipment will be replaced by plastic circuits. Similarly, plastic food containers for picnics and travelling could have their own self-heating system or one that cooked the food by plugging it into the lighter socket on, say, the dashboard of a car.

Dr Naarmann said BASF planned to launch a battery, the size of a postcard and only three times as thick, on to the market later this year. He said the electrically-conducting polymer would "widen the horizon in science and technology".

The Far East boom is moving to Britain

Taiwanese computer companies are planning to set up British production facilities. Tatung, one of the largest Taiwanese manufacturing companies, already has a factory employing 1,000 people in Telford. Since the beginning of this year three more firms have opened negotiations for factories or offices in Britain.

They are Multitech, which sells computers under the brand name Acer; Microtek, which makes optical scanners; and Mitac, which produces a range of IBM pc-compatible machines. All three are also interested in Telford.

The Taiwanese computer industry is booming. Since the turn of the decade output of electronics products has gone from \$10 million per year to \$3 billion.

The country's balance of trade surplus is big enough for the government to encourage firms to invest overseas.

Exchange controls have been relaxed to persuade some of the 2,000 companies that make up the Taiwanese industry to put their money into foreign production.

"There are three reasons for the interest in producing computers in Europe," says Kwang Lee, managing director of CID, a London import agency which represents Taiwanese firms in Britain.

"First, companies want to establish a good name. They have the image of being cheap and nasty which they want to get rid of. Second, the currency is strong and they have too much money. Thirdly, they want to avoid tariffs that may be imposed by the Common Market after 1992 when European markets are to be unified."

European production does not automatically mean higher manufacturing costs either, says Mr Lee. Labour costs are rising in Taiwan whose strong dollar anyway buys more work overseas than it used to.

Since Tatung bought out the Decca TV business six years ago about a dozen Taiwanese electronics firms have entered the UK market in force. But until now most have relied on

Taiwan shows the way

By John Lamb

distributors and wholesale deals to sell their products.

Mitac decided just before Easter to open a branch office in Telford. The company is considering a factory next. The plant could be operational by early next year. Mitac has big plans for increased production.

Last year the company turned out 120,000 pcs but this year the company has set the target at 200,000 or 14% of estimated world PC production.

With larger volumes, the Taiwanese are looking to change their image as clone makers. The company's 200 engineers design PC systems for wholesalers others. Memorex and ITT are among American customers who sell Mitac made PCs under their own brand names.

Last month, four of Mitac's personal computers won design awards at a major computer show in Hannover, West Germany.

Changes, however, in IBM's product line are likely to test the ability of Taiwanese designers and their legal advisors. Up until now Taiwanese companies have traded on producing cheaper, faster versions of IBM AT and XT machines.

IBM has hedged its new PS/2 range with patents and copyright. "IBM has tried to get all the market. It will only open the door very slowly," said Mr Lee.

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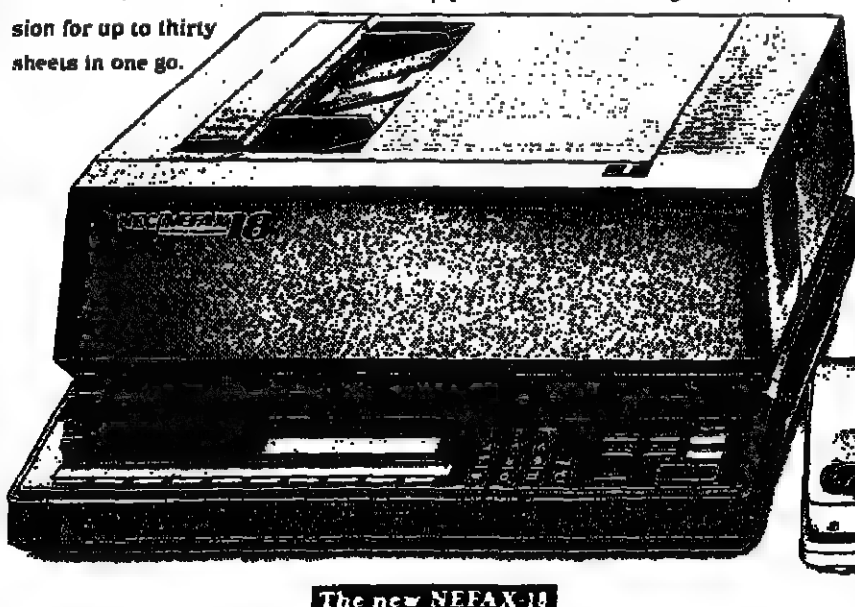
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The murky battle over clean water

By Nick Nuttall

It may appear to be all over but the drinking water in Britain's decision finally to fall in line with the European Community's 1980 directive on drinking water is hardly an issue of mere implementation.

Not least is the thorny issue of who pays for the installation and running of treatment systems to reduce nitrate levels below 50 parts per million.

However, resolving this question looks simple when seen against which technology the water chiefs and scientists should choose.

Dr Topsy Rudd, a scientist with the London-based Consultants in Environmental Sciences has just completed a survey of the European scene for the Department of the Environment. It shows that even our more experienced neighbours cannot decide on a simple solution to what is the most appropriate technology.

However, Dr Rudd does believe that Britain can learn from other European countries where plants have been running for a while.

Both Belgium and Denmark suffer the increasing effects of nitrates following post-war intensive agriculture. But like Britain, the Belgians are only just starting to address the problem; the Danes have shied away from technology altogether, preferring the more holistic approach of nitrate protection zones.

The main victims, and leading lights in denitrification technology, are the French, Germans and Dutch.

Broadly speaking, two avenues of research are being pursued: one is biological, the other a chemical approach called ion exchange. At its most simplistic, ion exchange employs special resins to remove waterborne nitrates. Biological processes pass the water over, or through, a bed of bacteria which use the nitrate oxygen to "breathe", converting the pollutant into harmless nitrogen.

However, under this umbrella are a variety of systems being developed or tested, all with their own peculiar styles which scatter one-voice Europe into a myriad of nationalistic preferences.

France's three privately owned water companies have 11 ion exchanges but only four biological systems, which are either installed or being commissioned.

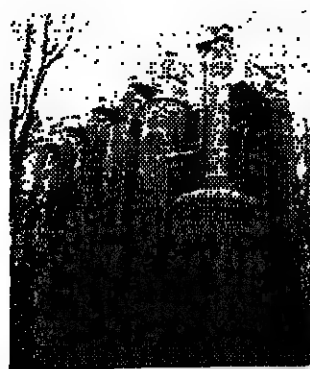
However, there are drawbacks: brine is a by-product in ion exchange systems and must be pumped, sometimes over long distances, to estuaries or the sea.

For a British authority, such as Anglian, the costs may be minimal, but for others with no coastline the expense could be prohibitive.

A problem peculiar to Britain and particular to ion exchange may also be an effect called dezincification where high levels of chlorides build up, rotting the brass pipes and joints common in the UK.

In contrast to France, Germany appears to be pinning its colours to the biological approach, having three plants already in operation. It does have one ion exchange facility but this is a highly specialized, complex unit which filters not only nitrates but softens water.

However, at a cost nearly treble that of straight-forward



French purification plant ensuring healthier water

ion exchange systems — 17p a cubic metre — this plant is appropriate only in areas of especially hard water.

One of the biological systems that is particularly interesting is West Germany's autotrophic method which uses hydrogen as a bacterial fuel and naturally occurring bicarbonate as the carbon food source. The microbes chosen give the technology some keen advantages over other biological systems.

Dr Rudd says the technology is also proving popular in Holland where scientists are piloting a variation using sulphate instead of hydrogen as the energy source.

The technological options open to the British authorities are vast, with even more recent developments such as the Dutch dual ion exchange biological system. France's new methods of manipulating different bacteria to cope with nitrite build-up, and one un-

usual idea, possibly appropriate in rural areas and also France, which uses chopped straw as the bacterial support.

Add to this other curious ideas — one being floated by the Germans involves running water across a field of reeds to remove nitrates — and picking the right system becomes nightmarish.

Over the next few months, the authorities and water companies will be submitting their proposals on nitrate treatment to the DoE. On the basis of the Continent's experience, it appears that no single piece of technology can claim ascendancy.

Dr Alan Tetlow of Anglian believes each board will submit a package of proposals but thinks the favoured technology will be ion exchange.

This may be because this system is the most suitable in general for the UK, but there is the danger that water technologists simply feel more comfortable with the process they know.

In most cases the cost effectiveness of ion exchange appears to weigh heavily in its favour. But, with technologists still actively developing biological units and learning more about how to cure their problems and cut costs, the hasty installation of ion exchange just to placate the EC — but which down the line may become costly outdated technology — must not be a consideration in any government recommendation.

Sniffing a snort

Japan's robot makers are ahead of the competition by a nose. Scientists in Tokyo have built a robot that can sniff out different varieties of whiskies and wines.

"The robot can tell 11 different whiskies, wines and Japanese rice wines from their smells," says Professor Toyosaka Morizumi of the Tokyo Institute of Technology. He claims that his robot is the first of its kind in the world.

Teaching robots to distinguish smells is especially difficult because scientists are still not entirely clear how the human nose works. The professor's team programmed graph-form analyses of different smells into the robot, which is equipped with 10 sensors.

The robot distinguishes a smell by checking through its memory for a matching pattern, he says.

Once perfected, the process could have a wide range of uses, including quality control in the food and cosmetics industries.

It could also have applications in home health care because of the changes in odours that take place when a person is sick, he adds.



New materials will boost the HOTOL spaceplane

Reaching for outer space

By Geoff Wheelwright

Advances in communications, propulsion and materials technology should allow the next generation of civilian and military aircraft to be larger, faster and to go farther.

At least that's the opinion of Brian Young, technical director of the British Aerospace military aircraft division.

The company is looking at the use of new materials such as carbon-fibre and diffusion-bonded titanium to improve the heat resistance of planes at high speeds.

The heat suffered by the planes at speeds beyond Mach 3 — three times the speed of sound — is one of the major limitations on the rate at which they can travel.

Internal high-speed communications between computing devices inside the plane has also become crucial in improving aircraft. Mr Young said that in BA's older range of Tornado jets, the thick, multi-line wiring required to handle the computer signals was more than 22 miles long.

That cabling has been reduced dramatically in size and weight with the use of fibre-optics that can handle up to 20 million bits of computer information per second.

Computers have also played a role in aircraft development outside the cockpit. Mr Young suggests that engineering software in use at BA has significantly reduced the development time for new planes and has trimmed some 40 per cent off the engineering budget.

The overdue move by the computer industry towards

making products easier to use is being reflected in aircraft cockpit design.

Using artificial intelligence techniques and displays that can carry out the same functions as a number of the gauges and dials in older planes, cockpit layouts have been dramatically simplified.

Pilots will soon have to get used to artificial intelligence software that will suggest to them ways of avoiding problems before they happen.

But not everything in the aircraft design world is getting faster and better.

"As far as vertical take-off and landing planes go, it's very difficult to improve on the Harrier — an example of everything coming together just right," said Mr Young.

"But we do want to be able to re-heat the engines to make a plane supersonic."

And while the use of advanced materials can let aircraft designers consider planes travelling at greater speeds, British Aerospace has been considering the engine requirements to take its HOTOL spaceplane beyond the atmosphere.

"It couldn't be done without an engine which allows you to breathe air and act as a rocket," said Mr Young.

"The HOTOL design is now being tested at a speed of five miles per second and we are looking at using very advanced working materials."

Computers will also play a key role in preventative measures. "There has been a dramatic growth in the use of safety critical software," he explained.

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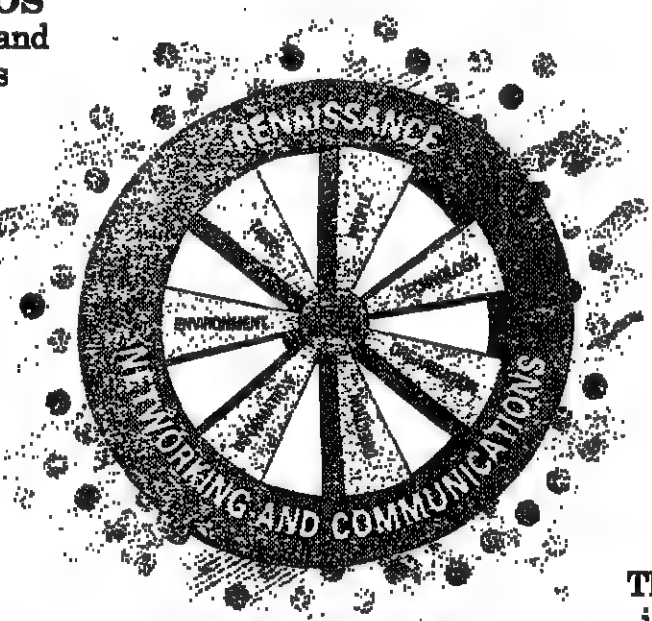
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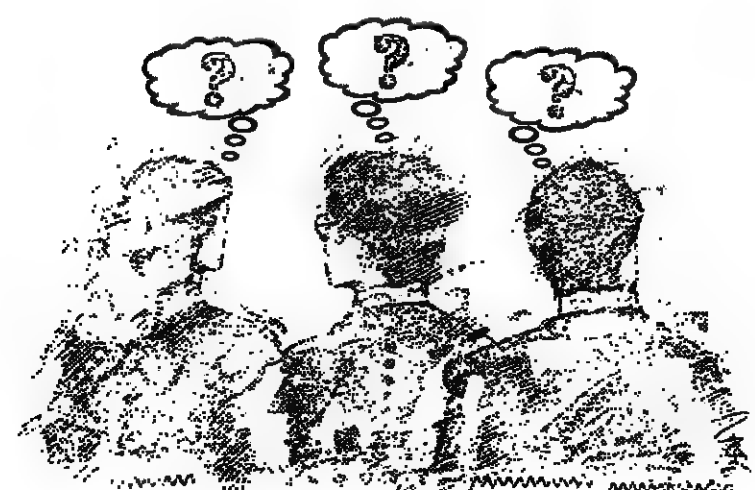
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Cutting the costs

By Robert Matthews

Thorn EMI last week unveiled a computer which exploits the abilities of the world-beating Inmos T-800 Transputer "computer on a chip" to give near-supercomputer power at a tenth of the cost.

Called Parsys, the computer is one of the first major commercial products to emerge from the Esprit programme of European collaboration on R&D in information technology.

Thorn EMI joined forces with the Royal Signals and the Radar Establishment, the universities of Southampton and Grenoble, and the French companies Apor and Telmat to develop the technology. During the collaboration, the T-800 floating point version of the Transputer was developed, and it is the arrangement of this device which gives it its power.

Up to 1,000 T-800 transputers, each capable of up to two million operations a second, can be incorporated in Parsys. But the key to the

machine's ability to give substantial computing power at a fraction of the normal cost lies in its ability to change the way in which the transputers within the machine are configured for different tasks and within individual programs.

The machine's basic structure is hierarchical — the transputers are connected into nodes under the command of a node controller. "A single node is capable of sustained operation of at least 25 million floating point operations; a second (25 Mflops).

However, the use of Asics (application-specific integrated circuits) enables the whole configuration to be controlled by software instructions, which makes Parsys different to most of its rivals. It can boost the performance of computers such as Sun workstations, IBM PC AT/XT and Dec computers.

The machine has the potential to reach supercomputer performance at around 1,500 Mflops. Its market is seen as the research community in Europe.

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This major financial institution operates one of the largest commercial property portfolios in the United Kingdom. Increasingly active in major commercial development projects, both in its own right and through joint-venture, the nature and quality of the work is first class.

The group legal department forms an integral part of the company's operations, all work being handled in-house.

Continued growth in the volume of work has created the need to recruit two qualified solicitors with a minimum of two years' experience in commercial property work.

Ideally aged 26-30, you should have, or certainly be seeking to gain, experience of institutional investment and development projects and commercial lettings.

A highly competitive salary package is offered to candidates who wish to expand their conveyancing skills and work in an enthusiastic and ambitious team environment. This includes a subsidised mortgage, non-contributory pension and, at the more senior level, a company car.

To apply, please send cv, indicating current salary, to Fiona McMillan, Ref: 1867/FM/T.

PA

PA Personnel Services

Executive Recruitment/Human Resource Consultancy

Hyde Park House, 60a Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LE.
Tel: 01-235 6860 Telex: 27874

Deputy Company Secretary

CHELTEMHAM

RoyScot Finance Group plc is one of the five operating divisions of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc. The Finance Group provides a highly competitive and extensive range of financial services through its principal trading companies. These facilities include corporate and consumer instalment credit, major leasing facilities, credit card and instore managed card operations, fleet contract hire and business factoring facilities.

Based at Cheltenham the appointee will report to the Company Secretary and take responsibility for the detailed statutory requirements relating to Company administration for a number of the subsidiary companies, together with responsibility for the day to day administration of the office and integral computer systems. In addition to deputising for the Company Secretary the person appointed will be expected to provide legal and technical advice to the subsidiary trading Companies on Company Law matters.

The position offers considerable challenge and scope for personal development either within the Department or in a broader management role within the Finance Group.

The successful applicant is likely to be 25-35; an ACIS with at least two years Company Secretariat experience. A highly attractive benefit package will include subsidised mortgage facility, non-contributory pension and life assurance scheme, private health insurance and profit related sharing scheme.

Please write with curriculum vitae details to P.R.H. Preston, Personnel Department, RoyScot Finance Group plc, RoyScot House, The Promenade, Cheltenham, Glos. GL50 1PL.

RoyScot Finance Group

01-481 4481

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

CITY OFFICE

COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

COMMERCIAL LAWYER

£30,000 Package

An energetic, committed commercial lawyer, aged 28 to 30, is sought for our client, a major British manufacturing Group, to work as an integral member of their busy team. The successful applicant will undertake challenging company commercial matters, including drafting and negotiating heavyweight agreements. A generous remuneration package will be offered.

COMMERCIAL LAWYER

£20,000

Our client, the UK arm of a major European electronics group requires an experienced lawyer to assume a newly created legal/commercial secretarial role within its head office west of London. Reporting to the Company Secretary, the successful applicant will be responsible for Company High Court litigation, acquisition/disposal of property, and company secretarial duties. Applicants should be 2 years qualified, with conveyancing/ litigation experience. Linguistic skills would be a distinct advantage.

For details of these and other vacancies please contact Lisa Wilson or Tim Knight on 01-583 0073 (24 hours).

PRIVATE PRACTICE

LITIGATION EC1

This well established general practice has a growing need for litigation solicitors with at least 1 years' experience. Their workload includes personal injury, professional negligence, building contracts, employment law and matrimonial. This is an ideal opportunity for lawyers seeking an attractive working environment and remuneration package.

PROPERTY W1

An expanding West End practice wishes to recruit two solicitors to specialise in commercial conveyancing. Candidates should either be newly admitted or up to two years qualified with a good academic background and training. Salary will be according to age and experience, a generous benefits package included.

CORPORATE TAX

SOLICITORS c.£17,500

We are acting on behalf of a major international law firm based in the City, in the recruitment of high-calibre newly and recently admitted solicitors who wish to specialise in corporate tax. Excellent career prospects within a highly commercial environment. (Ref RCI).

For details of these and many other positions, please contact John Cullen or Lucy Hartley on 01-583 0073.

BANKING
CORPORATE FINANCE
EXECUTIVES

From £25,000 + Bens

If you are a young Solicitor in Private Practice working in an established company/commercial department, we are well placed to advise on opportunities with leading City financial institutions.

A number of top Merchant Banks and Stockbrokers continue to look for high-calibre candidates to join their flourishing corporate finance teams. These positions afford the opportunity for close commercial involvement in all aspects of the corporate function.

Ideal candidates will have up to 2 years' related experience in private practice or a similar financial institution and, in the light of increased European and global involvement, fluency in another language is an advantage. Excellent rewards are available for first class candidates able to demonstrate commercial awareness and a strong personality.

For further details, please contact Tim Knight or John Cullen on 01-583 0073.

WEST END OFFICE

PRIVATE PRACTICE

VACANCIES FOR
PROPERTY LAWYERS

£18,000-£50,000

We currently have vacancies throughout the capital for high calibre solicitors and legal executives who are seeking a move within the property field.

Our clients range from small partnerships, some with a particular bias towards property matters, to large commercial West End and City based practices whose specialist departments deal in all aspects of commercial property, development, funding and planning work.

Candidates may be newly qualified or with up to 5 years experience, which may have been gained in residential and/or commercial property matters.

Whether you are seeking a more specialist or a more general role, better quality work, a more attractive remuneration package or improved career prospects, we can assist you in finding the most suitable position.

For further details, please contact Judith Farmer, Robert Drury or Gillian Croft on 01-583 0073 (Day) or 01-809 4974 Evenings and Weekends.

COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

LEGAL ADVISER
OIL COMPANY SW1

Young lawyer with c.3 years' commercial experience sought by this leading UK company to join a busy Legal Department, advising all levels of management on a variety of commercial matters. Excellent salary and prospects.

CORPORATE SOLICITOR

SW1

Leading Blue-Chip Plc with diverse operations worldwide has a vacancy for a young solicitor with at least two years' quality company/commercial experience to provide corporate legal advice to senior management as part of a small professional team.

OIL & GAS LAWYER

W1

Major energy company has a vacancy for a lawyer to advise mainly on upstream activities including commercial contracts and capital projects. Ideal candidates will be aged around 30 years with relevant commercial experience.

For further details, please contact Judith Farmer, Robert Drury or Gillian Croft on 01-583 0073 (Day) or 01-809 4974 Evenings and Weekends.

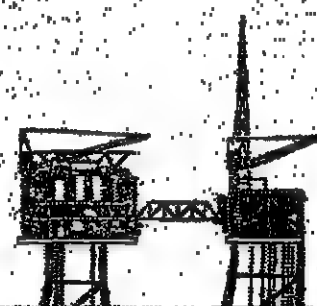
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LEGAL
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ARCO British Limited, Operator of the Thames Complex gas development, offers outstanding prospects for professional development. Our parent company is one of the largest in the US and ARCO British Limited is an oil and gas company which continues to expand in this country with several exciting development prospects. Consequently we now have a need within the organisation for an experienced Legal Adviser.

Reporting to the Senior Attorney in London, you will be involved in a wide range of legal affairs, including matters related to major development projects in the North Sea Southern Gas Basin. A fully-qualified lawyer, you will have had previous experience in the offshore oil and gas industry and will be expected to make an immediate contribution to ARCO's expanding operations.

We offer a highly competitive remuneration package, including company car, non-contributory pension scheme, life assurance and private health scheme. Relocation assistance will be offered where appropriate.

If you believe you meet our requirements, please send a full CV (quoting current salary) to Julian Yates, Employee Relations Manager, ARCO British Limited, ARCO House, 411 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 0AN.

Atlantic Richfield Company and its subsidiaries are exploring and developing key areas in the North Sea and onshore UK. These involve 26 operated licences covering 34 blocks offshore and 11 onshore. Several fields in the North Sea basin are in production or development and ARCO has considerable non-operated interests both onshore and offshore UK. There are also operated and non-operated interests in the Netherlands, Ireland, Norway and other European countries. Elsewhere in the world, ARCO has been acquiring new operations in addition to its large producing operation in Indonesia.

BURGES SALMON
BRISTOLCOMMERCIAL
LAWYERS

As one of the major commercial practices outside London we have a number of opportunities for Lawyers to join our expanding Commercial Department handling demanding work of the highest quality for a broad range of clients.

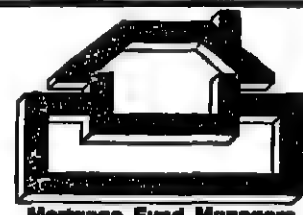
We are looking for candidates of up to five years qualification but those more senior should not be deterred from applying. As well as commercial contract work, experience in any of the following areas is desirable but not essential:

1. Computer Contracts.
2. Competition Law.
3. Distribution, manufacturing and licensing arrangements.

We offer top salaries, early responsibility, sophisticated training systems and an agreeable environment in which to live and work.

Please contact Adrian Llewellyn Evans, The Recruitment Partner, Burges Salmon, Narrow Quay House, Prince Street, Bristol BS1 4AH
Tel: (0272) 276567

A member of the M5 Group of independent legal practices



LEGAL MANAGERS

SALARY £12,000 - £15,000 p.a. PLUS AN ATTRACTIVE BENEFITS PACKAGE

Mortgage Systems Limited is the UK's leading independent mortgage administrator with offices in Hampshire, Birmingham and Glasgow. The company currently manages residential mortgage funds in excess of £1 billion. We are looking for Legal Managers experienced in conveyancing and mortgage work for our head office in Fleet and for our new office in Poole to be opened at the beginning of May.

The position will appeal to someone looking to practice their law in a commercial environment. The ideal candidate will have a thorough working knowledge of conveyancing but must be able to lead and motivate a young and enthusiastic legal team. He/she will manage a legal team responsible for dealing with borrowers' solicitors on all legal aspects of residential property.

We offer a modern and friendly, yet challenging, environment.

Candidates should apply with a full C.V. to:

The Personnel Department,
Mortgage Systems Limited, Admiral House,
Reading Road North, Fleet, Adurashot,
Hants GU13 8YA.

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CHESHIRE	BLOS	TYNESIDE
CLEVELAND	GREATER MANCHESTER	WARWICKS
GLYO	GLAMORGAN	WEST MIDLANDS
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If you are looking for a more rewarding and challenging appointment contact us today and find out how we can help you find that exciting position and location you require.

SEND YOUR CV to The LEGAL DIVISION
or telephone 0273 202828

51 QUEENS ROAD, BRIGHTON BN1 3XB

COMMERCIAL PARTNER DESIGNATE

Ipswich to £35,000 + Car + Relocation

Our clients are one of the leading commercial practices in Ipswich. They have an excellent client portfolio which has been developed continuously throughout the firm's one hundred year history.

Due to the continued expansion of commercial work from both Agricultural Clients and the growth of the ports of Ipswich and Felixstowe the Partners now wish to recruit an additional Commercial Partner Designate.

The role would suit a sound Commercial Lawyer who has experience of company formations and takeovers and wants to develop a specialisation in other areas of Commercial Law.

The appointment will appeal to an ambitious SOLICITOR who is keen to join a modern progressive practice where potential will be rewarded. Our client anticipates that Salaried Partnership will be offered within six months with a full Equity Partnership one year later.

For further information please telephone or write to SORON BOSTON quoting reference SBL/555T, on Leeds (0532) 461671 at Daniels Bates Partnership Limited, Joseph's Well, Hanover Walk, Leeds, LS3 1AB. Your application will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Daniels Bates Partnership Ltd., Joseph's Well, Hanover Walk, Park Lane, Leeds LS3 1AB. Tel: (0532) 461671. Also at: Sheffield, Darlington, Manchester, Hull and Middlesbrough.

Daniels Bates Partnership
PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT

Phillips & Buck
Solicitors
Cardiff

We are a substantial legal practice with offices in Cardiff and London, serving a large range of commercial clients. As part of our rapid development programme, we are currently seeking to recruit:

COMMERCIAL CONVEYANCING SOLICITORS

To undertake a variety of interesting tasks including bank lending, landlord and tenant, and property development. Opportunities are available for qualified solicitors, with experience in the public or private sector, and also for trainee solicitors who may wish to consider the transfer of articles in order to specialise in this field.

We can offer excellent working conditions in a modern city office together with a competitive remuneration package, prospects and relocation expenses. If you are interested in joining a young, dynamic organisation and feel you can contribute to its future development, please forward your CV to:

Ms Jackie Buckley, Phillips & Buck
Finsbury House, Finsbury Road, Cardiff CF1 1LZ

ASSISTANT COMPANY
SECRETARY

Andrew Weir & Company Limited, an established international group, is seeking an Assistant Company Secretary to be based in the city, for its two shipping companies.

Reporting to the Company Secretary your duties will embrace the full range of secretarial skills and will include preparation of statutory returns and maintenance of statutory records, preparation of ship leases and finance agreements, maintenance and service contracts (premises) and leasing of office machinery for the group. In addition you will be expected to participate fully in the management of premises and various group service departments.

You should be a fully qualified Chartered Secretary, a law degree and/or legal experience would also be an advantage.

An attractive salary is offered together with a comprehensive benefits package. Please write enclosing full career history and salary details to Miss C. Wegrzynski, Assistant Personnel Manager, Andrew Weir & Company Limited, 21 Bury Street, London EC3A 5AU.

LAWRENCE JONES
SOLICITORS

This vibrant commercial firm with a City practice has just moved into spacious new premises in a dominant riverside location on the South Bank within easy walking distance of Waterloo and Blackfriars stations and has an immediate need for extra solicitors or legal executives to help with increasing workload.

1. LIQUOR LICENSING

Solicitor preferably 1-2 years specialist experience in this field to take on a substantial workload in this area, including advocacy in Magistrates Courts all over the Country. Abilities in other fields are desirable, but not essential.

2. COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

2 or 3 solicitors or legal executives are needed to assist partners in existing heavy workloads and to help in a major expansion presently underway in this area of the firm's practice. All property aspects are covered and applicants should also be willing to deal with some residential property work. The opportunities are for newly qualified to 2 years experience but we would also like to hear from those nearing end of Articles with relevant experience.

3. COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

One solicitor newly qualified or up to one year PQE with relevant experience in Articles to assist the partners in general company and commercial work with an emphasis on banking and finance.

All positions carry competitive salaries with good prospects for the right people in an informal but often hectic atmosphere.

Please write to Colin Clark, Staff Partner, Lawrence Jones, Sea Containers House, 20 Upper Ground, Blackfriars Bridge, London, SE1 9LH or call him on 01 620 1311.

McKENNA & Co
COMPUTER LAW

McKENNA & CO require a personable outgoing lawyer to join their rapidly expanding team experienced in computer law. The applicant need not be a solicitor but should be admitted in a common law jurisdiction, and should have not less than 2 years' post-admission experience in private practice.

The successful applicant must also have a technical background, preferably a degree in the computer or electronics or applied and engineering physics fields. The applicant's experience must include both contentious and non-contentious work in the computer field. In particular the applicant must have experience of litigation involving technical aspects of both hardware and software and of drafting agreements for the development, manufacture and sale of both hardware and software. An understanding of the computer industry in the European Community and in the USA is also essential.

There will be an excellent remuneration package for the right candidate.

Please apply with full curriculum vitae to: Bernadette Willoughby, Personnel Manager, McKenna & Co, Inveresk House, 1 Aldwych, London WC2R 0HE

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Seeks Paralegal associate full time at top salary. Essential qualifications are high intelligence and willingness to learn. The job is challenging and varied at central location in modern offices in the West End.

We regard Paralegals as professional executives.

If interested please apply to:

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require an additional

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for non-contentious work including commercial conveyancing.

Salary range £11 to £15K

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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c.£24,000 + CAR

In today's climate of regulatory
and statutory change, the
demand for the versatile
Commercial Lawyer is greater than ever.
At the Alliance & Leicester, we can
provide an excellent opportunity for a
commercially-minded solicitor or
barrister.

Applicants should be graduates,
ideally in their late 20's or early 30's.
Knowledge of banking, consumer credit,
company, commercial and property law
would be an advantage, but the primary
requirement is for someone with drive
and enthusiasm who can apply the law in
an effective manner.

**LEGAL ASSISTANT
CONVEYANCING**
c. £15,000

Our Legal Department also requires
a conveyancer with a sound knowledge
of residential conveyancing practice.

Applications are invited from
solicitors or legal executives who have
up to four years' experience of
property matters.

In addition to an excellent salary,
both positions offer an attractive
benefits package, including staff
mortgage facilities, contributory
pension scheme, Private Patients Plan,
and where appropriate, relocation
package.

Please send full career details,
indicating which post you are applying
for, to: Karen Hallwood, Personnel
Department, Alliance & Leicester
Building Society, Hove Administration,
Hove Park, Hove, East Sussex, BN3
7AZ.

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TRAVERS SMITH BRAITHWAITE

CITY LAW

There are about ten firms whose names feature regularly in
the major City deals.

We are the smallest of them, yet we are tipped by 'The Legal 500' as one of the
two London firms most likely to go 'from strength to strength' over the next
five to ten years.

We are now looking for lawyers to share our future in:

**Corporate Finance
Banking
Company/Commercial
Commercial Property**

Our size enables us to recognise and reward individual ability and
commitment and gives us the flexibility to allow assistants to have a real say in
their own future.

If you are already working or would like to be trained to work in one of these
areas, contact Christopher Bell at Travers Smith Braithwaite,
6 Snow Hill, London EC1A 2AL. (Tel: 01-248 9133) or Venetia Crow
at Michael Page Partnership, 39/41 Parker Street,
London WC2B 5LH.



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TAX PARTNER DESIGNATE - CENTRAL LONDON

Our client is a small City practice that prides itself on being an entrepreneurial, marketing-
orientated and rapidly expanding business. The London office has associated firms in the
South of England and excellent connections with Law firms in the U.S. and Europe.

As the firm develops it has become obvious that there is a clear need for a tax partner.
The incoming specialist could be a Solicitor or Barrister with a commercial tax and/or
private client background, and would be expected to service the existing nucleus of tax
clients whilst contributing to the growth and development of the firm.

Remuneration will not be a barrier and is entirely negotiable.

For further information, or for a more general discussion of the tax market,

Contact **PETER MORRIS** on (01) 353 6405 Home No. (01) 747 1808
BREWER MORRIS, LUDGATE HOUSE, 107 FLEET STREET, LONDON EC4A 2AB

RANK XEROX

Commercial Lawyer

Rank Xerox is a highly successful multinational company and a world leader in
the design, development and marketing of advanced office systems and
reprographic products.

We are now seeking an energetic Solicitor or Barrister for our International
Headquarters in Marlow, Buckinghamshire who will strengthen the small,
highly professional legal services team supporting the whole range of our
information technology businesses worldwide. The position involves some
international travel.

Pragmatic, commercially-minded and with a problem-solving approach,
you should have a good honours degree and at least 2 or 3 years' post-
qualification experience preferably in a commercial environment. Strong
interpersonal and communications skills — both verbal and written — are
essential.

Basic knowledge of EEC Law is expected. In addition fluency in a foreign
language and acquaintance with a major legal system of continental Europe
would give the candidate a considerable advantage. Of special interest
would be some practical experience in the following areas:

- Major commercial contract negotiations
- European Communities Law
- Telecommunications Law

In addition to good prospects for career development, we can offer an
attractive salary depending upon experience, a fully-expensed prestige car,
BUPA and other major company benefits. Generous relocation assistance
will be available if appropriate.

Please write enclosing a full cv to David Stevenson, Manager,
Personnel Operations, Rank Xerox Ltd., Parkway, Marlow, Bucks SL7 1YL.

CITY/WEST END

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY c. £30 K

A solicitor with up to four years' admitted experience is
required by a recognised Central London firm to
undertake commercial conveyancing. This will consist
of freehold and leasehold transactions, often arising as a
part of clients' commercial activities, together with
development work and the consideration of tax aspects.

TAX

As a result of a steadily increasing workload in its
corporate and personal tax departments, this leading
City practice is seeking two specialist lawyers, qualified
for at least 18 months, in the areas of corporate and/or
personal tax advice and planning. The salaries payable
will be very competitive and there are excellent
prospects for the more senior applicant.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL To £26 K

An alert and highly motivated solicitor with about two
years' PQE is sought by a burgeoning City practice to
handle a varied caseload including acquisitions and
disposals, managements buy-outs, share issues and
franchising.

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY To £23 K

We are instructed by a medium-sized City firm to
introduce a recently admitted solicitor to handle high
quality residential conveyancing in its property
department.

LITIGATION

A first rate commercial litigator with up to three years'
relevant experience gained in Central London is sought
by a progressive City firm with a highly respected
litigation practice. He or she will be expected to assume
responsibility for a stimulating caseload in addition to
working as part of a team on larger matters.

TRUSTS/PROBATE

For an assistant solicitor with a background in trusts/
probate the opportunity has arisen to take on and
extend the workload of a small but growing department
in this respected Holborn practice.

GREATER LONDON

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY c. £20 K

A conveyancing vacancy exists in this small but well-
established practice in North-West London for a
solicitor with residential conveyancing experience. He
or she will be given considerable scope to handle and
develop the property caseload.

LITIGATION

This thriving Docklands practice needs an able young
solicitor for general/commercial litigation, excluding
criminal and matrimonial law. The successful applicant
will join a friendly and informal team in an exciting and
challenging environment.

OUT OF LONDON

CRIMINAL LAW

A medium-sized Liverpool practice handling a growing
criminal caseload wishes to engage an accomplished
criminal advocate. The successful applicant will enjoy
excellent prospects, without being stifled by
administrative work.

PENSIONS

A leading commercial practice in the Leeds/Bradford
area seeks a pensions lawyer to develop this field and
meet future needs in the business community.

MATRIMONIAL

Our client, in a delightful Somerset town, requires a
matrimonial solicitor. Additionally a little personal
injury work is included and partnership is a distinct
possibility.

PROPERTY

A young property lawyer, newly admitted to two years'
PQE, is needed to assist our client's property partner. A
variety of commercial and residential work which
includes acquisitions/disposals for a national builder.

CIVIL LITIGATION

A dynamic Sheffield practice offers a competitive salary
and excellent partnership prospects to a young civil
litigation assistant. Experience in motor work will be an
advantage and the opportunity to participate in policy
and administration is part of the brief.

BARRISTERS

We have instructions from a number of central London
and City practices to recruit barristers with specialist
expertise. Experience gained during and since pupillage,
especially in company/commercial law, intellectual
property, town and country planning, tax or commercial
litigation will attract highly competitive salaries.

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Once you have qualified you may find on top of the
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BOODLE HATFIELD

YOUNG PROPERTY LAWYERS

Boodle Hatfield, located in the centre of London's
professional property world, wish to recruit three capable
solicitors to join their Property Department which is due
to move into larger modern offices later this year.

The firm acts for a wide variety of commercial interests
throughout England including property companies,
developers, pension funds, high street retailers and banks.
Two of the successful applicants will be closely assisting
partners in this field. The firm also handles large estate and
residential transactions and the other appointment will be
made in this section of the Department.

Applicants should have sound experience and training
either in or out of London and possess good academic and
personal qualifications. They will be prepared to work
hard in a good humoured and attractive environment. The
appointments could also be of interest to in-house
solicitors wishing to return to private practice. Fully
competitive salaries will be paid.

Please reply with full professional and personal details to:
John Elliott, Boodle Hatfield, 44 Davies Street, London
W1Y 2BL.

LONDON

LAWYER

c£30,000 + Car
+ Bank Benefits

The Merchant Banking division of a major American House wishes to appoint an
ambitious lawyer to a role which offers an excellent springboard into investment banking.

You will be concerned with a broad range of business which will include Euronote,
Commercial Paper, Swaps and Money Market activity. Apart from dealing with the
more complex documentation, there will be significant involvement with new product
development.

As a legal advisor to the Bank, enjoying a high profile role, you will have an excellent
opportunity to get to know the workings of the whole organisation. There will be
extensive liaison with other offices which will lead to overseas travel.

It is likely that you offer 2 years post-qualification experience within a commercial
practice (ideally within a banking department), although we would welcome
applications from suitably qualified barristers.

To progress your application please contact in confidence, Susan Milford, Manager,
Management Personnel, 25 City Road, London, EC1Y 1AA,
telephone 01-256 5041 (24 hour number),
quoting ref: CG0905.

Management Personnel
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Woolf Seddon

Solicitors

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We currently have a vacancy in our
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qualified solicitor to assist a partner.

The work which is mainly commercial
litigation is varied and interesting.

The firm is young, expanding and offers
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right person.

Please write or telephone:-

M.E. Savell Esq.,
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London W1H 9PS

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Further details and application forms (to be returned by 18 May 1988) may be obtained from Mr P Jones, Chief Administration Officer, Crown Prosecution Service, 5th Floor, Leicester House, Lee Circle, Leicester LE1 3RE, telephone (0533) 51411 ext. 240. He will be happy to arrange an immediate appointment for you to see the Chief Crown Prosecutor, Gordon Etherington. Please quote ref: G6/942.

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Stephen A. Horton,
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مكازم الأصيل

Law Report April 19 1988

Inquiry agent was solicitor's clerk

In re B (A Solicitor's Clerk)
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Rose and Mr Justice Hazan

[Judgment April 15]

An inquiry agent who, on behalf of a solicitor, had performed the functions of a solicitor's clerk, or even of a solicitor himself, was a "clerk to a solicitor" within the meaning of section 43(1) of the Solicitors Act 1974, and those words did not necessarily imply that a master/servant relationship had to exist between the agent and the solicitor.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when it allowed the Law Society's appeal against the decision of a disciplinary tribunal of the Society on October 29, 1987, which had concluded that although B, a self-employed inquiry agent, had done the work of a solicitor or a solicitor's clerk, he was not a clerk for section 43 purposes because the work actually done was insufficiently frequent.

Section 43(1) provides: "Where a person who is or was a

clerk to a solicitor but is not himself a solicitor - (a) has been convicted of a criminal offence; (b) that in the opinion of the Society it would be undesirable for him to be employed by a solicitor... an application may be made to the Tribunal...

Mr John P. Whitaker for the Law Society; Mr Paul O'Brien for the inquiry agent.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that B, formerly a detective chief inspector in the Greater Manchester Police Force, was convicted and imprisoned in March 1983 of two offences, one of corruption and one of attempting to pervert the course of justice. He set up business as an inquiry agent, including the job of process-server, on his release.

On three occasions in April 1986 his services were engaged to attend on clients on behalf of a solicitor at a police station to represent them in interviews conducted under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

The Law Society was alerted

as to what was happening and was of opinion that B was acting as a solicitor's clerk. It therefore took action under section 43 of the 1974 Act.

In cross-examination before the Society's disciplinary tribunal B admitted that although he had received no instructions from the solicitor he had performed the function of an adviser to those being interviewed at the police station.

His Lordship said that the implication was clear that he was acting as a solicitor, if not as a solicitor's clerk, and the police must have been under that impression before they admitted him to the police station.

Mr O'Brien had submitted that the words "who is or was a clerk to a solicitor" in section 43 required the relationship of master/servant to exist, and such a relationship clearly did not exist in the instant case.

His Lordship said that those words did not necessarily have that implication; they were neutral and could apply equally to an independent contractor or a person who was employed as a

solicitor's clerk. Section 43 was not a penal provision, designed to punish people who acted in the way that B had done. It was designed to protect the public.

It made no difference whether the person was employed as a solicitor's clerk or was engaged ad hoc by a solicitor in that capacity; the word "employed" in paragraph (a) did not cast light on the words "clerk to a solicitor".

Given that the master/servant relationship did not have to exist, it did not matter how infrequently a person acted in the capacity of a solicitor's clerk.

Here, B had acted in that capacity with sufficient frequency, he was a clerk to the solicitor and the tribunal had reached a wrong conclusion; the matter would be remitted to the tribunal to determine whether to make an order under section 43(2).

Mr Justice Rose and Mr Justice Hazan agreed.

Solicitors: Hempssons; Pannone; Blackburn, Manchester.

Secretary of state must decide on green belt

Martin Grant Homes Ltd v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another

Before Mr Justice Hodgson [Judgment April 14]

Where there was scope for definition of the green belt boundary in a county structure development plan, an applicant was entitled to a decision from the Secretary of State for the Environment as to whether a site was in the immediate surroundings of a particular town excluded by that development plan.

Mr Justice Hodgson so held in the Queen's Bench Division when allowing an application, under section 245 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, by Martin Grant Homes Ltd to quash the dismissal by the Secretary of State for the Environment on January 14, 1987 of the applicants' appeal against the refusal of planning permission by Reigate and Banstead Borough Council for the development of land at Great Lake Farm, Horley, Surrey.

Mr Robin Purchas, QC and Mr Craig Howell Williams for the applicant; Mr John Laws for the Secretary of State.

MR JUSTICE HODGSON said that the central issue was the status of the site in the relevant green belt policies.

The 1978 Surrey County Council Structure Development Plan, approved by the Secretary of State for the Environment in March 1980, had two relevant policies which declared that outside urban areas and the larger rural settlements the green belt would be maintained from the county boundary of London to a delineated line excluding Horley and the immediate surroundings. The pre-

cise line was to be determined in local plans.

At the inquiry in March 1986 by Reigate and Banstead Borough Council concerning planning permission it was agreed that the green belt policy status was uncertain and the applicants contended that until Horley and the immediate surroundings" was defined by the local authority the old county development plan would remain in force as the statutory development plan.

That was not in conflict with

the Surrey County Council Development Plan where

amendment 43 considered the general principles of the green belt policy should apply in undeveloped areas pending adoption of the plan and, although the sites were excluded, they had been and should continue to be treated as if the green belt policy applied.

His Lordship said that the interaction between the two relevant policies of the Surrey County Council Development Plan were not easy to understand. The delineation of the

green belt boundary was not for the court to define but it was difficult to say that the site immediately contiguous to Horley was not in the immediate surroundings of Horley.

The applicant should be entitled to a decision from the secretary of state as to whether the sites in question were in the immediate surroundings of Horley to determine whether the green belt policies should apply and whether planning permission was justly refused.

Solicitors: Merriman White & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

under section 160 of the Licensing Act 1964 had to announce his office, and, if he did not, whether the evidence of such a purchase was inadmissible under section 78 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

In his Lordship's view the answer was to be derived from the words of section 78 itself. The justices were only entitled to exclude evidence if they concluded that its admission would have an adverse effect of the fairness of the proceedings.

Regina v Mason (The Times May 23, 1987) was distinguishable. In that case the police said they had fingerprint evidence which they did not in fact have. The Court of Appeal indicated that that evidence could be inadmissible under section 78. That case concerned a clear deception.

It was impossible to see how the evidence in the present case could have any effect on the fairness of the trial.

Mr Justice Hodgson agreed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service; Stratford, E. Edwards, Son & Noice.

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WEDNESDAY

Botham faces another climb

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

Ian Botham, currently completing the final stages of his fund-raising march across the Alps, was yesterday warned that he has a more personal mountain to climb before playing any part in the summer series against the West Indies.

Peter May, the chairman of England's selectors, deflected suspicions that Botham might not be considered for the series following his disciplinary problems in Australia, but volunteered his view that the all-rounder is anything but an automatic choice.

May explained: "It is the start of a new summer, and states must be wiped clean. Ian has been punished for what he did, and our job is simply to pick the best England team."

"Ian on his day, is still a high class cricketer, but I suggest that 21 wickets in a season, and a batting average of 29, are not the sort of figures we are looking for in picking a Test side."

The statistics quoted were Botham's returns in first class cricket last season. In 11 eleven Championship matches for Worcestershire, he took only 14 wickets, and his seven for England cost 61 runs apiece.

It is his bowling which will be under the closest scrutiny, starting later this week, when he is due to begin his County season at Old Trafford under the gaze of Test selector, Phil Sharpe. Unless Botham can produce persuasive evidence that he has re-captured his wicket-taking ability, his England days are numbered.

As May said: "Apart from Neil Foster in Madras three winters ago, we have not seen a match-winning performance from a bowler in Test cricket for far too long. We seem unable to bowl sides out twice - hence, we have not won many matches."

He cited the suspect fitness of many English fast-bowlers as one problem area, and the preponderance of overseas bowlers in county cricket as another.

Over the weekend, the selectors held their first meeting of the summer, and they are now considering extensive reports submitted by the team manager, Micky Stewart, on winter events and performances. One assumes that these reports make mention of the dissent issue, which May himself brought up again yesterday.

"Dissent is quite unacceptable as far as we are concerned. Players may say and do, but we should not confuse dissent with disappointment. You must allow players to express disappointment when things go wrong, but they should go no further."

England's captain, at least for the early part of the summer, will be announced next month, and May, while admitting there is "a major task" on hand, added: "I believe that if we play to our very best, we can be successful. Everybody smiles when we win. It's about time we all started smiling again."

Budd seeks legal advice over demand by IAAF

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

Zola Budd is taking legal advice through John Bryant, her coach, over what he yesterday called "the shabby treatment meted out by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) last weekend."

In the wake of what is effectively an IAAF demand to the British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) that Budd be suspended from international competition for a year to avoid an African boycott of the Olympic Games, Bryant is particularly incensed that Budd was not called before the IAAF council last Friday, when she had been led to believe that that was the purpose of her attendance at the hotel where the meeting was held.

Furthermore, Bryant said that Budd was told she did not need a lawyer present, since the IAAF would not be having one there either. Bryant said:

"There was a lawyer in and out of their committee room all day, supervising every word they wrote. We were given assurances that we would be called, and we were conned. It's all a bit sickening."

Budd, the South African-born runner with the British passport, is not saying anything for the time being, but Bryant said that she was still training. "Very well indeed". She was choked with emotion when she heard Britain's Olympic marathon runners, Kevin Forster and Hugh Jones, say on television they would back her. Bryant said: "When you have just won an Olympic place, it takes great courage and great understanding for a fellow athlete to say they would be prepared to give up that chance to see she gets justice."

The BAAB had not received

by last night the letter in which the IAAF said it was detailing its dissatisfaction with BAAB policy over Budd. But the BAAB is also taking legal advice before its committee meeting in London next Sunday, to discuss the IAAF "request" to suspend Budd.

If that happens, as seems likely, Mike Farrell, speaking for the BAAB, asked yesterday, "whether the IAAF will indemnify us, if Budd then sues us?" - a question which has as yet gone unanswered.

Budd would still be able to run in Britain, against domestic opposition. But, as Bryant said, "the board needn't think it can buy us off with that."

Mike Winch and Joyce Smith, the athletes' representatives on the BAAB council, are undertaking a poll of leading athletes on the Budd issue. Winch said of the few he had contacted so far: "Their views are split, but I think it's important for the board to know by Sunday what the athletes think."

In the wake of the call for Budd's suspension, the IAAF also told The Athletic Congress of the United States (TAC) to revoke their permission for Mark Plaatjes, the black South African, to compete for a six-month trial period in the US. TAC was also asked to investigate claims that Sydney Maree, the former South African, now a naturalized US citizen, had conducted a coaching clinic on a trip back to South Africa last year. Such an action, would come under the same proscription of "taking part" as that which the IAAF is invoking against Budd.

The High Court case which Sandra Gasser, of Switzerland, is bringing against her drugs ban by the IAAF will be heard on Thursday and Friday in London. It appears that one of the last decisions of the IAAF council, the annulment of the final long jump of the Italian, Giovanni Evangelisti, in the world championships, and the award of the bronze medal to Larry Myricks, may have been done against the wishes of Primo Nebilo, the Italian president of the IAAF.

Bedford named as Brasher's deputy

By Pat Butcher

In the wake of a London marathon whose impact suffered by comparison with the world record set in the concurrent Rotterdam race and the continuing brouhaha over Zola Budd, Chris Brasher, the London marathon director, yesterday announced the nomination of Dave Bedford as his deputy, a move which suggests the gradual handing over of the reins to the younger man.

Brasher, who with John Disley, the course director, instituted the event, against much opposition, in 1981, will be aged 60 next year, one of the reasons he gave yesterday for preparing to bow out. That, however, to those who know Brasher and his ways, will be believed when experienced.

Brasher's success story, at least in respect of the marathon (he owns a very profitable running shoe franchise), could be losing momentum. The standards of the race are declining, as are the entries. It is doubtless hoped that an equally astute and more

charismatic character like Bedford (in his late thirties) will help persuade top British runners like Steve Jones and Priscilla Welch back into the London event and also use his African connections to bring Kenyans and others into the race.

According to Brasher, his own main commitment now is to get the IAAF world marathon cup in London in 1991.

The use of County Hall as the race-day headquarters is still secure, said Bedford, quoting Sir Godfrey Taylor, the chairman of the London Residuary Body, which is running down the affairs of the former owners, the Greater London Council. The continued use of the building will permit a record 30,000-plus acceptances next year. There were 29,803 this year, of whom 22,469 started and 20,889 finished. A London record, beaten only by New York last year.

Marathon results pages 42 to 44

IAAF act against Plaatjes

From Steven Downes, Boston

and they think they are helping people like Ernest Tjele and me by denying us opportunities outside South Africa as well.

The case of Tjele is a bizarre one. Last October this citizen of Lesotho won \$25,000 (about £13,300) in a marathon in Columbus, Ohio. To preserve his amateur status, Tjele was obliged to lodge that money in a trust fund, but no such system exists in his home country.

So he banked it in South Africa, the country where he finds work. That ill-informed IAAF led him to be barred from competing in yesterday's Boston Marathon and he has even had his fund "frozen".

For athletes like Tjele and Plaatjes, such setbacks are so common that they are no longer greeted with the despair one might expect. "I am sick to death with it," Plaatjes said, holding his hand in a line on his throat. "We made the move to America to get a better life for my family, and we are staying."

"I was in Brakpan and I saw Zola. She jogged round the course, and watched the race. No more than that. That interpretation of participation can set a very dangerous precedent."

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Sharpe move by United



Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, yesterday agreed to pay the fourth division club, Torquay United, £30,000 for Lee Sharpe (above), a 16-year-old forward introduced to football as part of the YTS scheme.

his seventeenth birthday at the end of next month. Ferguson conceded that the fee was excessive for an untried youngster, but said he believed that the player had enormous potential.

The Birmingham-born Sharpe, who has made only seven senior appearances for Torquay, will join United on

"We liked what we saw and decided to go straight ahead with the deal. He has got a great deal of promise."

Timely appliance of science

By Colin McQuillan

Wendy Berry, a sports science student from Sussex, left Wembley Conference Centre yesterday as a Hi-Tec British Open squash racket champion. It was an achievement beyond her wildest sporting dreams, and not a jot diminished by having an over-35 tag attached.

Berry is 36. She was once a member of the England B squad but these days her attention is mostly upon her studies at the Chelsea School of Human Movement, Brighton Polytechnic, with coaching of the Sussex county sides for relief and some small income.

"I have hardly trained this season at all," she confessed, after beating Averil Murphy, of Essex, 9-4, 8-10, 5-9, 10-8, 9-6 in 55 minutes to win the £700 first prize.

If anything, Berry's 9-6, 2-9, 8-10, 9-7, 9-3 semi-final victory over the top seed, Rac Anderson, of Australia, was the crucial win. Anderson, a large and strong veteran on

the international scene, was in the main event at Wembley until removed by Liz Irving, the fourth seed.

"I was 2-1 down against Rac, just as I was against Averil," Berry said. "But Averil had won the over-40 final two hours before playing me. She was very tired towards the end, whereas Rac seemed to get stronger the longer the semi-final went on."

Berry plays regularly with Asfar Khan, a cousin of the world champion, Jansher Khan, and a man who could once defeat Mohibullah, the elder brother, who provides much of Jansher's inspiration.

Of course, the world champion did not survive to yesterday's British Open final. His coach, Mohammed Yasin, was required to carry the family honour by winning the men's over-45 title 9-4, 9-1, 9-3 in 34 minutes from Mo Khalifa, of Merseyside.

Yasin, once a British Open

finalist and, now, at 49, undoubtedly the finest veteran player in the world, is of another calibre altogether. This handsome, compact man, dark of countenance and expression, moves on a squash court with almost unnoticed efficiency. His watchword for Jansher is "work and more work" in training, and in competition.

His own preference, though, is to let his racket carry the load. Khalifa spent most of his final half-hour pursuing the ball enthusiastically in obedience to Yasin's centrally positioned command.

RESULTS: Final: Men: Over-35: H. Jansher (Eng) 9-4, 8-10, 5-9, 9-6, 9-1, 9-4. Over-45: A. Khan (Sussex) 9-4, 8-10, 5-9, 9-6, 9-1, 9-4. Over-45: H. Jansher (Sussex) 9-4, 8-10, 5-9, 9-6, 9-1, 9-4. Over-45: H. Jansher (Sussex) 9-4, 8-10, 5-9, 9-6, 9-1, 9-4. Over-45: H. Jansher (Sussex) 9-4, 8-10, 5-9, 9-6, 9-1, 9-4.

Jansher Khan will play a £5,000 challenge match against the world No. 3 Chris Dittmar, of Australia, in Aberdeen on May 18.

Snooker cast in minor role

By John Goodbody

You may not believe it as we enter day four of the Embassy World Championship, but there is a declining amount of snooker on television. As you settle down for another evening watching (or avoiding) the drama from the Crucible Theatre, you may be surprised to learn that in 1987 cricket regained the lead as the sport with the most number of hours televised by the BBC and the independent companies.

Cricket totalled more than 412 hours, boosted by coverage of the World Cup and World Series Cup, with snooker slipping down to second place, with 357 hours. More than 2,850 hours of sport was televised in 1987, an increase of almost 519 hours since 1983.

This is particularly striking because in late 1986 BBC stopped showing World of Sport, its regular Saturday afternoon programme, and because all-night television, which contains several sports programmes, had barely started in 1987.

Figures collated in a report by Derek Etherington, the creator of Sportsman, a company specializing in the analysis of sponsorship and television, and the Sports Council's sponsorship consultant, show how snooker has suffered a decline since 1983.

The most significant increase has been bowls, whose number of screened hours has more than doubled since 1983. Rugby Union coverage almost doubled last year, largely because of the World Cup, while golf benefited from coverage of the Ryder Cup.

Commenting on the statistics, Martin Jackson, the Ed-

Hours of coverage

	1987	1986	1985
1 Cricket	412	355	320
2 Snooker	357	304	285
3 Racing	276	276	253
4 Bowls	176	112	81
5 Golf	175	148	107
6 Football	171	202	196
7 Tennis	162	182	164
8 Athletics	152	131	94
9 Boxing	71	71	50
10 Rugby union	65	35	30
11 Darts	59	54	50
12 Equestrianism	58	58	30

itor-in-chief of *Broadcast* magazine, said: "I think snooker must have hit a ceiling. I would be very surprised if the viewer appreciation index, which defines how many people liked rather than watched a particular programme, is as high for snooker now as it was a few years ago."

"I think there is some resentment among the viewers of the blanket coverage of snooker. But this does not mean the sport will not remain a popular part of televised sport."

He describes the growth of bowls as "really extraordinary. A sport that a few years ago was regarded as a geriatric pastime is now receiving more coverage than football. If I had a tip for a new television sport, it would be the game of bowls, which I have never seen, even on French television."

Jackson says that despite the continual complaints of broadcasters about the plight of arrangements with promoters and governing bodies, sport remains cheap television. Even the Winter Olympics, one of the more expensive sports operations in 1988, cost only £30,000 an hour. A programme like *News at Ten* costs £115,000 an hour, and some situation comedies can cost over £200,000.

Jackson expects the number of hours devoted to sport to rise again this year, with BBC2 continuing to dominate public broadcasting. Channel 4 has tripled the number of hours it has devoted to sport since 1983.

"I expect Channel 4 to accelerate this increase, particularly as Michael Grade, a former sportsman, is chief executive," Jackson said. But, by 1990, he predicts a dramatic change with the arrival of the satellite sports channels.

He ultimately foresees the time when many of the governing bodies and promoters will control their own coverage, as the bookmakers have done with horse racing through Satellite Information Services, which beams the sport into the betting shops.

Several governing bodies and promoters will have companies making their programmes for satellite television. At least, we will then be spared the complaints of administrators about how their sport is presented on television. "Sportsman (Sports Sponsorship Computer Analysis Ltd) 1987 (£750). Higgins beaten, page 47.

Butcher unlikely to be fit for championships

By Roddy Forsyth

Terry Butcher admitted last night that he is unlikely to be fit to play for England in football's European Championship finals in West Germany this summer.

The Rangers defender, who broke a leg in a Scottish premier division match against Aberdeen last November, ruled himself out of club football for the rest of the season and added: "It doesn't look too good for my chances of being included in Bobby Robson's plans for the European Championship finals."

Butcher, who at the same time denied reports that he intends to join an English club next season, added: "I had very much hoped to be able to play in our league match against Hibs last Saturday. Unfortunately, although I felt that the leg was strong enough for me to play again, the medical advice was that I shouldn't risk it."

Regarded by Robson as crucial to the England defence,

Butcher was said to be keen to return south following his conviction last week for disorderly behaviour and breach of the peace at the Rangers-Celtic derby in October.

But Butcher, who was fined £250 at Glasgow Sheriff Court last Friday, added: "My future lies with Rangers and I certainly intend to see this difficult spell out."

"My family and I have received an immense amount of support in the past couple of days and speculation that I would be moving back to England is simply nonsense."

Butcher and Chris Woods, the Rangers goalkeeper who was also found guilty of the charges and fined £500, yesterday lodged appeals against their conviction and Rangers will hold a Press conference today at which the future of the two men, along with Graham Roberts, their fellow Englishman, who was also charged but found not proven, will be discussed.

Barnes making a quick recovery

Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, yesterday allayed fears that John Barnes, the England international forward, may miss the FA Cup final against Wimbledon next month (Ian Ross writes). Barnes sustained a groin injury during the Football League Centenary Festival at the weekend.

Dalglish said Barnes had a chance of maintaining his

record of playing in every Liverpool match since his £900,000 move from Watford last June, when the champions-elect face Norwich City in a rearranged League game at Carrow Road tomorrow night.

"He has received some treatment and is feeling a lot better. We will now just take it day by day," Dalglish said.

Robertson signs for Newcastle

John Robertson, the Heart of Midlothian forward, became the most expensive signing in Newcastle United history yesterday, when he agreed to join them for £750,000.

Robertson, aged 23, will sign after a medical later this week, but will not be able to play for his new club this season because the transfer deadline has passed.

Several continental clubs were interested in Robertson, but the fact that he will be able to live fewer than 100 miles from Edinburgh was a major factor in his decision.

Robertson, who has scored 31 times for Hearts this season, said: "Newcastle came over as a very ambitious club."

Robertson's arrival will encourage speculation that Newcastle will be prepared to sell Paul Goddard, their forward, possibly to one of his former clubs, West Ham or Queen's Park Rangers.

The news of Barnes's recovery will also be welcomed by Bobby Robson, the England manager, who has named him in his squad for next week's friendly international against Hungary.

Liverpool, however, have three key players doubtful for the Norwich game. Molby and Spackman are both carrying calf injuries and Houghton has a thigh strain.

Mills attacks time-wasting

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

Alan Mills, the Wimbledon referee, has added his weight to persistent criticism of what he calls the "unnecessary" length of matches. He blames the rules of the Men's Tennis Council (MTC), which governs the grand prix circuit and associated events.

Those rules permit a 30-second interval between points and a 90-second interval at change-overs. "A five-set match used to take approximately two hours and a half," Mills said. "Now it can take anything up to four hours, or more. Play must be speeded up, or the game will lose many fans."

Long before the advent of open competition, we sometimes put a stop-watch on matches and, unless necessary, discovered that tennis was in progress for only a third of

the time. Goodness knows what the proportion would be now.

Thanks to daft rules - and their own willingness to defer the moment of commitment - modern professionals spend a lot of time not playing tennis. They bounce balls, towel down between points, and sit on chairs as if they had just run marathons. None of that is tennis. None of it is entertaining.

Welcome, Alan Mills, to the massed choir of public opinion. Unfortunately, one cannot be sure that the MTC gives a damn about public opinion.

Collins meets Kaylor in title defence

Tom Collins, frustrated in waiting for his world title chance, will instead defend his European light-heavyweight boxing championship against Mark Kaylor, the former British and Commonwealth middleweight champion, at Wembley on May 11.

Collins, aged 32, from Leeds, who became European title-holder last November, was to have met Charles Williams, of the United States, the IBF world champion, on February 20 but the contest has been postponed three times.

Trevor Callaghan, Collins's manager, had already spoken of making alternative plans and yesterday it was announced he had accepted an offer

Barrett on the mat

The British Boxing Board of Control have asked Mike Barrett, the promoter, to give a full explanation of why he cancelled a show in Portsmouth last week, before approving a new date for the British light-middleweight title contest between Gary Cooper, the holder, and Gary Sirech.

Barrett yesterday gave May 18 as the day on which he hopes to stage the contest but Stretch's manager, Frank Warren, was so appalled at the late cancellation that he said he was not accepting a postponement and wanted Barrett's licence to be taken away.

Roche worry

Liege (AFP) - Stephen Roche, of Ireland, the world cycling champion, could miss the Tour de France after hurting his left knee in a multiple pile-up in the Liege-Bastogne-Liege cycling classic here on Sunday. He will fly to Barcelona tomorrow to see the Spanish surgeon who has treated Ben Johnson, the Canadian sprinter, and Diego Maradona, the footballer.

A busy man

England's most successful badminton doubles player in recent years, Martin Dew, from Welwyn Garden City, has been forced to pull out of the team for the Thomas Cup finals in Malaysia next month because of business commitments.

Hussein first

Abraham Hussein, of Kenya, became the first African to win the Boston marathon yesterday. He completed the course in 2hr 8min 43sec.

Roche: visit to the surgeon

Roche: visit to the surgeon